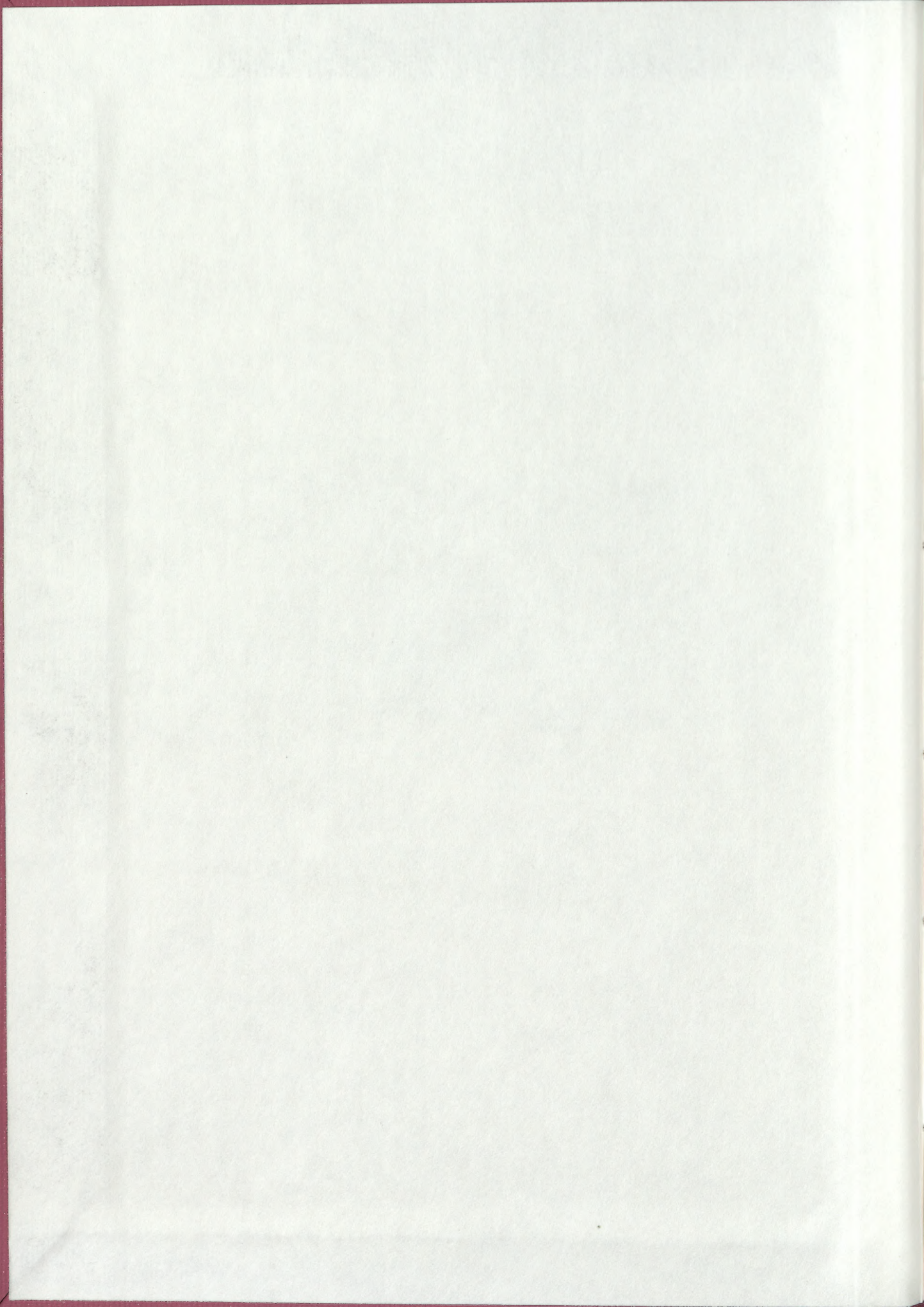
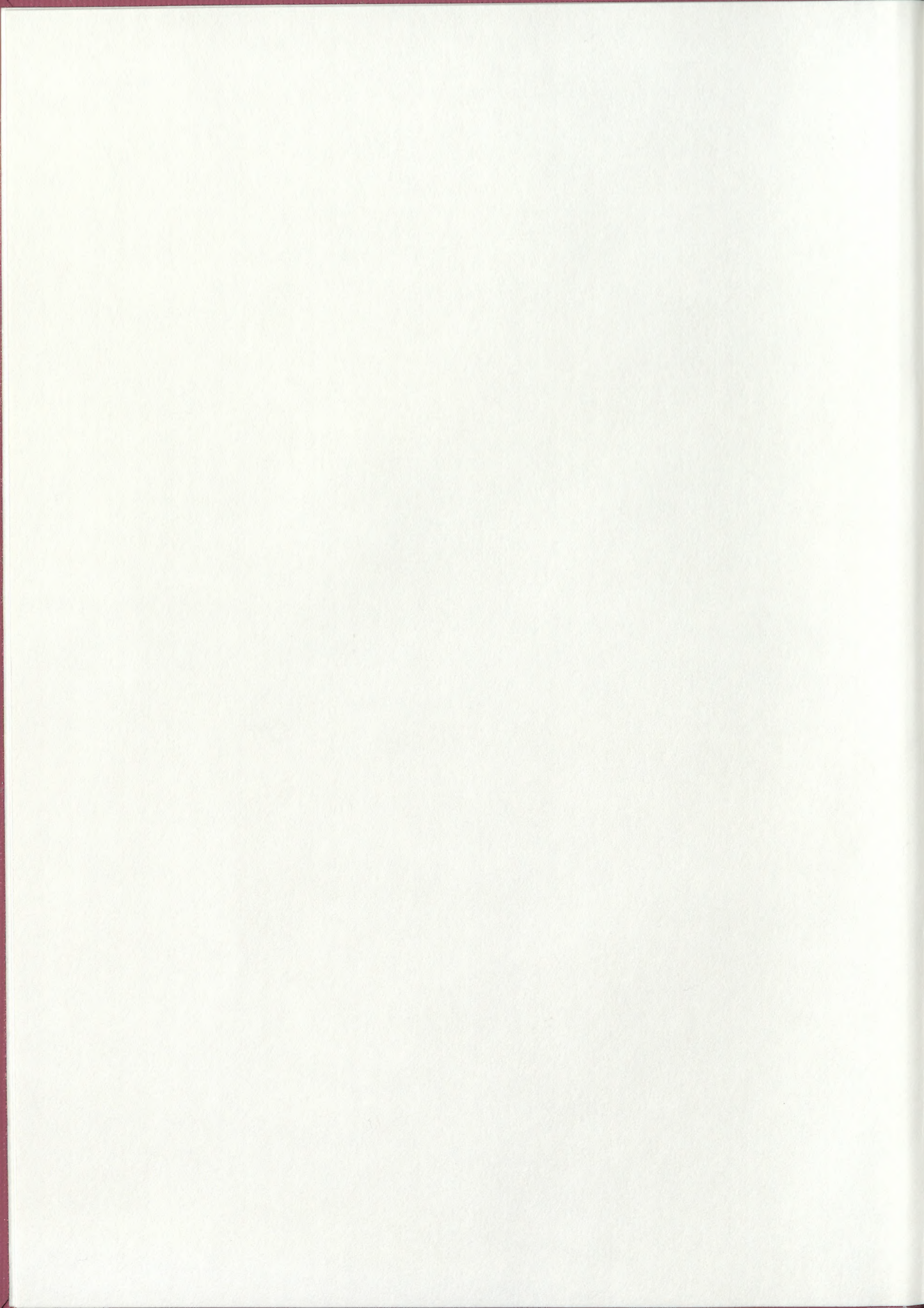








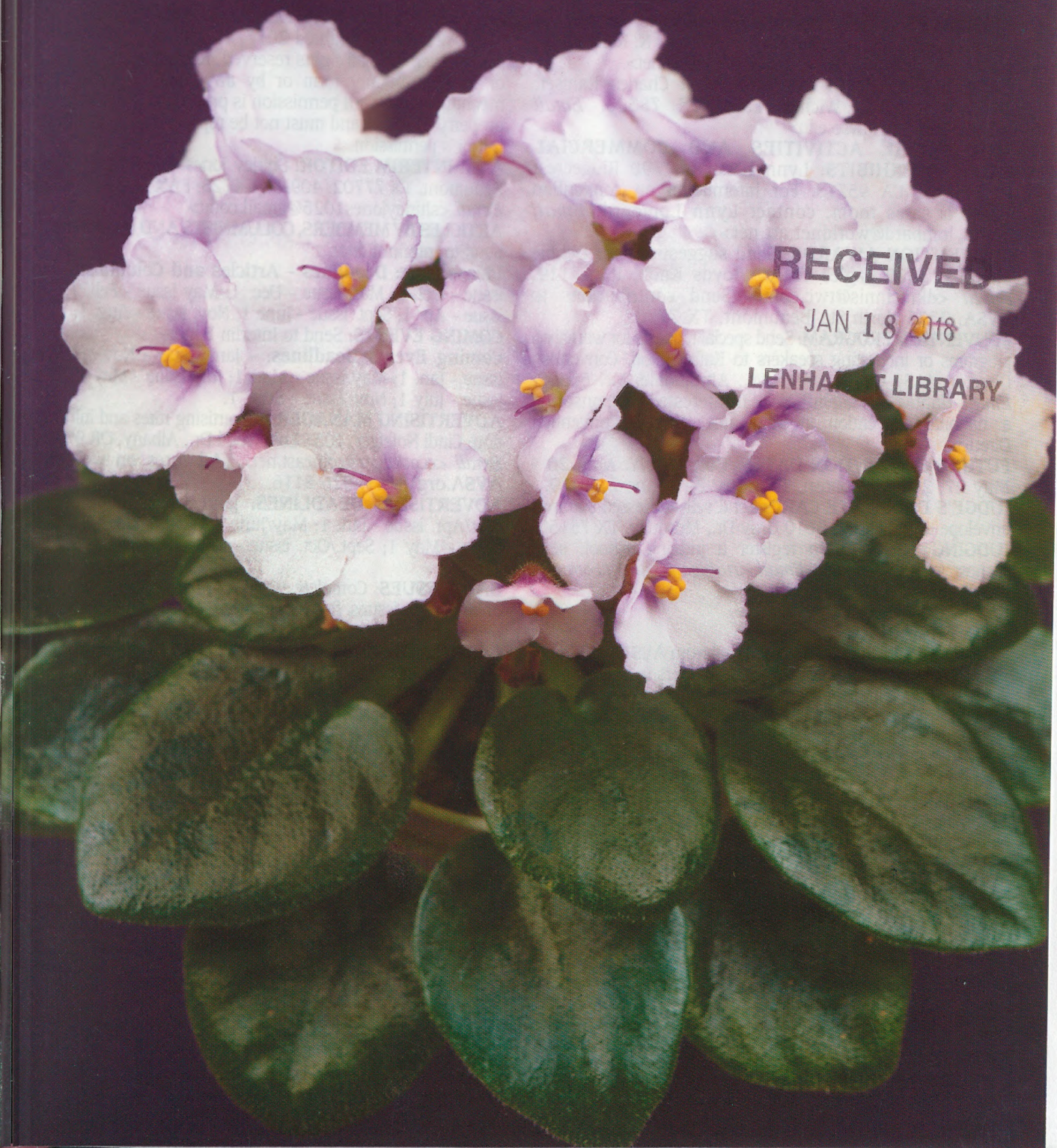
African Violet

MAGAZINE

January • February 2018

Volume 71

Number 1



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ARTICLES BY MEMBERS, COLUMNISTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Interim Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles and Columnists: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

COMING EVENTS: Send to Interim Editor.

Coming Events Deadlines: - Jan. issue - Nov. 1; Mar. issue - Jan. 1; May issue - Mar. 1; July issue - May 1; Sept. issue - July 1; Nov. issue - Sept. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and information: Cindi Nofziger, 1035 Lakewood Dr., Albany, OR 97321. *Email* <ccnofziger@comcast.net> **(Ad rates on web site: AVSA.org)** (541) 926-8116.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan/Feb. issue - Nov. 1; Mar/Apr. issue - Jan. 1; May/June issue - Mar. 1; July/Aug. issue - May 1; Sept./Oct. issue - July 1; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 1.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

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The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November. Periodical postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a non-profit organization, at

2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 and at additional mailing offices.

Subscription \$35.00 per year which is included in membership dues • Copyright 2017 The African Violet Society of America, Inc. POSTMASTER: Please send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Magazine, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702

African Violet

January • February

Volume 71

Number 1

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On this Cover:

Jolly LuLu

Exhibited by: Anne Nicholas

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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

President's Message

By Richard Nicholas - *President*

3113 Deerfield Dr. • Denton, TX 76208

Email: randanicho@aol.com

AVSA Friends:

By the time you read this issue, the holiday season will have just passed, so I hope each and every one of our members and their families had a great time. Belatedly, Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy New Year! And, part of that Happy New Year will be in Buffalo, New York, for our AVSA Convention and Show.

Recently I had the opportunity to be part of two regional shows: the Mid-Atlantic AVS show in Fredericksburg, VA and the Lone Star AVC show in Houston, TX. What fun!! Your Executive Committee met in conjunction with the MAAVS show. We truly appreciated the hospitality. The EC meeting was very productive. You will see the results now and over the next few months. The Lone Star show, though it did not have the usual 400+ entries, was a great sign of the good health of our hobby. Beautiful plants and designs (323 entries), over 100 registered, and lots of fun time with violets friends. At both shows we were able to recruit several volunteers for AVSA positions. Let's hope that trend continues.



As you saw in the last magazine, our long-time editor Ruth Rumsey has retired. I know we all wish her well and a very happy retirement – well earned after twenty-four years as Editor. We have hired Shirley Jones, who has served as our typesetter, as Interim Editor and Ruth will stay on as a consultant for two months to help with the transition. A Search Committee has already been appointed, with Vice President Sue Ramser as chair. This committee will lead the process to identify our next editor.

A lot of work is underway to be ready for our joint show with AVSC in Buffalo in just a few months. I hope many of our members are able to attend. I feel sure those New Yorkers and Canadians are planning an awesome convention. And now our plans are looking forward. A contract has been approved to hold the 2019 AVSA convention in Houston, TX! The Lone Star AVC will serve as host.

Don't forget – I would like all AVSA members who are on Facebook to send me a friend request so we have another way to communicate!

As always, violets connect us!



5 Director Nominations for 2018



Randy Deutsch

I am Randy G. Deutsch and I live in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. My home town is Ellsworth, Minnesota which is in the southwest corner of the state. I graduated from high school at the Ellsworth Public School in 1971. I then attended the University of Minnesota/-Alexandria and graduated with an accounting degree. I moved to Sioux Falls, SD after college and started work at the Cook Paint and Varnish Company. Currently I am employed with JDS Industries as their National Warehouse Operations Director. They are largest wholesale distributor in the world of parts and components for the awards, personalization, and recognition industry. I direct all operations for 14 distribution centers all over the USA. Next July will be my 25th year with the company.

My wife, Carla, and I celebrated our 42nd wedding anniversary this past July 16th. In 1988 we welcomed our son Jon-Eric to our family. We were blessed with our first grandchild in October, 2016. Zoey Marie loves to spend time with her grandparents whenever we can get her away from her parents.

My original affiliate group was in Sioux Falls and was started by Miriam Green. Currently my local club is 3 hours away, the Omaha African Violet and Gesneriad Society. I am also a member of the Missouri Valley African Violet Council. There I have served in many positions including president. Currently I am the Council treasurer.

I am a life member with AVSA and have attended every national convention since my first one in Houston in 1999. That is where I met the first person of a national level. I was so impressed at the convention with her entry of the trailer 'Lamb's Ears' and when the show was being torn down I approached Marge Savage and asked her for a leaf. That started a friendship that has lasted all of these years. It was a special honor to have Marge present me with an honorary one year

membership at the Albuquerque convention. I always say the national convention is more of a big family reunion than anything else, it's about friendships.

I also assisted the society as the finance chair during the presidency of Joyce Stork. Together with convention chair, Linda Hall, I also served as the show chair for the Kansas City national convention. I have previously served as a director for AVSA too. I enjoy judging several shows per year and am currently a senior judge.

I appreciate the opportunity to service the society as a director, and I look forward to seeing everyone at the convention in Buffalo!!!



David Kesler

It is an honor to be nominated for the position of Director of AVSA. While I have not grown African Violets for decades, as some have, I have been working in a supporting role for my wife's hobby on and off since the mid 70's. About three years ago, she asked if I would like to join her in growing these little beauties. We had never had a hobby together, so I jumped at the invitation. It didn't take long before we were surrounded by more plants than we had room to properly care for. I have found out, that this is a common problem! We joined a First African Violet Society of Dallas and began to really get into the "AV scene." Even though the meetings were 100 miles away, we really enjoyed them and learned more and more by the presentations given. Alva and I started a new club, African Violet Society of East Texas in Tyler, TX in November of 2016.

The first national convention that we attended, we took the Judges class and became Student Judges and have judged at every opportunity that has presented itself.

I retired from the computer software industry and noticed that there was no software that was designed to run on Apple products. I worked with Joe Bruns to develop First Class for Mac which has

been recently added to the AVSA Store. I also wrote First Class Viewer that is designed to work on iPhones and iPads that is available in the App Store.

I am currently serving as the AVSA Technology Committee chairman. We are working to make the advantages of diverse technologies available to our society.

I have extensive business experience from founding and running several businesses, and I offer that experience to AVSA. I will use my energy and expertise in service to AVSA and its members.



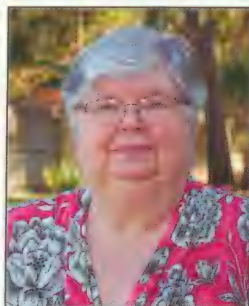
Neil Lipson

Of my many hobbies, African Violets is at the very top. I not only love growing them, but developing not only new ideas and techniques to propagate them but also shar-

ing these ideas and techniques in AVM. I always give away my tricks and tips to benefit as many growers as possible and answer questions from growers who call as well as through social media. In 2010, I started to seriously photograph them at every show I attended and made these tens of thousands of photos available over the years to growers everywhere as well as for the First Class program, publication in AVM and Chatter Magazine in Canada.

I joined the AVSA in 1984 and started writing for AVM shortly thereafter. My first violet was one that my wife bought me back then, and when she complained that I had "too many violets," I always reminded her that she started it for me. I then joined the AVSS (Springfield, PA club), and over time I served many positions including VP, interim President, Educational Exhibit volunteer for not only the AVSS, but for other clubs as well, including MAAVS and a few of the National AVSA shows. I have given instructional seminars to many clubs in the east coast and also do all of the photography for about 6 clubs in PA, NJ, Delaware and Maryland. I grow duplicates of many rare varieties and share them with whoever asks.

My education includes two degrees from Drexel University and a degree from the Philadelphia Conservatory of Music. I was widowed in 1998 and have one son. I worked as an electrical engineer specializing in lighting and then started my computer sales and consulting firm in 1978 until today. My other hobbies are carnivorous plants, hot rods, chemistry and nature. Being elected to the position of Director is a special honor, and I will work hard to benefit others and the AVSA.



Linda Price

Linda R. Price of Apopka, FL has been a member of AVSA for seven years. She is an advanced judge. She started growing African violets in 1958 when her mother and aunts discovered violets.

One of her first jobs was in an office next door to a dime store that received fresh shipments of violets every week. She was their best customer.

Linda taught EFL for over 35 years in Cali, Colombia. She holds two masters degrees: one in education and one in English as a Foreign Language. She retired as an associate professor from the ICESI University in 2007 and returned to the United States shortly after being widowed in 2006.

In 2010, after attending a show presented by the Central Florida AVS, she joined the club and later, she joined the African Violet Council of Florida and Dixie AVS. She has served in many different capacities in both the Central Florida AVS and the AVCF. At present, she is president of both organizations. In 2017, when the Council sponsored the AVSA Convention in Orlando, she served as the Local Convention Chair.

Linda has three sons, two granddaughters and a grandson.

When not working on her violets or freelancing, Linda cares for a short-haired tortoiseshell cat named Pun'kin.

It is an honor to be nominated as a Director of the AVSA. If elected, I look forward to sharing my love of violets with others and using my organizational skills to the benefit of the AVSA.



Sharon Shannon

My main passion is my African violets and anything that has to do with them. "Anything" includes not just growing and propagating violets, but also working for my Club, meeting new members, encouraging them to grow (both violets and their skills), seeing members succeed, and of course, everything that has to do with Convention. Chairing the 2016 Convention in Albuquerque is a highlight in my African violet world, as is all the wonderful people I have met in my Club and AVSA.

I was introduced to African violets in the early 1990's by a now-dear friend who I had met at work. She had a one-shelf light stand full of beautiful flowers and I fell in love! She gave me my first plant and my first lights and taught me all

the basics of care, techniques that I still use today. Then I went to a show and then I went to a club meeting and the rest is history! I still blame my friend, Sharla, for all the trouble I've gotten into as well as all the pleasure I've had by her giving me that first plant!

As a member of the Albuquerque African Violet Club, I have served as Secretary, Vice President, and President spanning the last eight years. I served as Chair for the AVSA National Convention in Albuquerque in 2016.

I have a B.S. in Computer Science and work as a software engineer. I have two children and six grandchildren and I'm very fortunate to have them all living near me. My other hobbies/interests are photography, beading, knitting, leather carving, and riding motorcycles. I am honored to be nominated as a Director for the Board of AVSA and look forward to becoming more involved.



Final Checklist for Show Plants

1. Is this plant free of diseases, dust, spray and water residue? (Saliva seems to be the best solvent for removing water spots from leaves.)
2. Have you removed all suckers, seed pods, seedlings and "baby" leaves, dead and wilting flowers and spent stems?
3. Does this plant have a neck or does it sit too high in the pot?
4. Is there a label with the plant name and your name on the bottom of the pot?
5. Have you slip-potted this plant in the same size, type and color of pot with a plastic liner to avoid leakage?
6. Does this plant need water?
7. Have you raised the flowers up so they are not hidden by the leaves?
8. Are the leaves lying in their proper rows?
9. Have you removed all visible labels, picks and supports?

From "The Violeteer",
Publication of the Pomona Valley

The Violet Network

By Jennie Lawrence

Email: missjennae@yahoo.com

What is a "wiki?" I was unsure of this myself when I sat down to write this column. Research told me that a wiki is "a website that lets any visitor become a participant." (The Source for Learning, c. 2017.) Anyone can create or edit a wiki site without any special technical knowledge. A wiki is an ongoing project. It is continually under revision, and shares creative processes and the end product. (Teachers First).

The wiki I chose to look at was a wikiHow, and the topic was Growing African Violets. This wiki has 19 co-authors and was updated 11 weeks ago. It has a five out of five star rating.

While one could edit the information without creating an account, it seemed to be easy to create a log in. A minimal amount of information was needed. Various reasons are given to edit the wiki, including sharing expertise and insight, and connecting with like-minded people.

This wiki is aimed at the novice African violet hobbyist. While the information is very basic, it is also sound.

There are three parts to this web article. The introductory paragraph was inviting. It said if one gets everything right, the plants would produce beautiful purple flowers all year long. There is no mention of the many other colors available in the African violet world.

The first section of this web page talks about propagation. All three common methods are discussed including starting leaves in water, potting soil and growing by seed. The information is basic, and simple enough for a beginner to follow. Illustrations of each method are included.

Part Two has to do with transplanting the baby plants. There are six different steps in this section. Some key points include how to determine when the young plants are ready to be removed from the Mother leaf or transplanted from the starting tray. The standard measurement of dime-sized leaves is given for leaf propagation, while a leaf size of two-inches is suggested for seed propagated plants.



Pot sized is presented. The standard two-inch pot for babies is recommended, as is the rule of thumb of a pot size one-third the size of the crown. Plastic versus terra cotta is also discussed.

Choosing the right soil is stressed. The standard recipe using equal parts of peat, vermiculite and perlite is discussed, as is commercial mixes. pH is briefly mentioned, too.

Step Four in this section gives a very clear explanation of how to separate the baby plants. Actual potting and transplanting is talked about, as is watering, and placement of the pots.

The final informational section gives general instructions on caring for African violets, including watering, fertilizer and lighting. Bright, indirect light is recommended. The fascinating bit presented about the latter discussed window placement. While this is nothing new, the fact that it considered both the northern and southern hemispheres was interesting. In winter, a south or west window is recommended in the northern hemisphere. A north or east window is recommended for the same period in the southern hemisphere. It is the opposite in the summer. While fertilizer is mentioned, the reader is advised to follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Temperature is also discussed. The ranges are given in both Fahrenheit and Celsius degrees.

A Community Question and Answer section follows the growing and care article. There are questions that had been answered, and questions that are waiting for answers. Again, anybody can answer the questions.

A brief video by Skip Richter, a Texas A and M horticulturalist concludes the web page. He does an excellent job of discussing some basic African violet care in just one minute and 51 seconds. Richter addresses wick watering and weak fertilizer solutions in this video. Like most resources on the internet today, this video links to many others at its conclusion.

To view this wiki, go to www.wikihow.com/Grow-African-Violets

In Search of New Violets

Dr. Jeff Smith - *The Indiana Academy*

Ball State University • Muncie, IN 47306

Email: JSmith4@bsu.edu

Many growers have heard of something called “the three generation rule”. However, a recent discussion on Facebook showed that individuals had different thoughts on what the phrase meant. In particular, the use of the word “generation” implied to some that the rule had to do with sexual reproduction. Others thought that the rule was used to measure the asexual genetic stability of the new plant. Both views are correct, but the use of the phrase is different depending on the context and intent of the speaker. Here’s a little help to separate the two uses of the phrase.

“Generations” is a term used to designate degrees of relationships between individuals produced by sexual reproduction. Two parents are crossed to produce the F1 (first filial) offspring. The F1 offspring are crossed to produce the F2 (second filial) offspring. The relationship is the same as that as parents to children to grandchildren. All three “generations” share a common heritage, but are different genetic individuals in their own right. If one thinks of the pedigrees commonly found with animal breeding records, this is the sexual use of the term generations. African violet growers may use pedigrees to show how plants are descended from a common ancestor. When registering a plant, the parents of the new hybrid are requested, but the records are usually not presented in the form of a classic animal pedigree. The sexual meaning of “generations” is less commonly used in plants including African violets.

The most common use of “the three generation rule” is to check the genetic stability of a new plant through asexual reproduction. The original plant is generation 1. Reproducing this plant asexually by leaf cuttings, suckers or bract flower buds gives generation 2. Reproducing a generation 2 plants asexually by leaf cuttings, suckers or bract flower buds gives generation 3. Plants from all three generations should then be placed side by side. The



new plant is considered to be genetically “stable” if it reproduces true to type and the plants from all three generations are identical to each other. A new hybrid that passes “the three generation rule” is usually considered stable enough to register, reproduce and release to the public.

Ideally, the method of asexually reproduction (leaf cuttings, suckers or bract flower buds) would not be a consideration in the genetic stability of a plant. However, chimera plants such as chimeras with striped flowers or leaf chimeras with variegated foliage can only be reproduced true to type through suckers or bract flower buds. The unique genetic form of chimeras is due to the specific layering of the tissues, something that can only be maintained through buds. Plants formed by leaf cuttings start as single cells of the epidermis tissue and lack the layering found in buds. Therefore, a chimera cannot be reproduced true to type from leaf cuttings. This restriction of chimeras to a specific form of asexual reproduction does not negate “the three generation rule”, but rather serves as a qualification of the rule as applied to these unique plants.

Q: I have seedlings of ‘Gillian’ that I’m sure were produced by self-pollination. I thought that white flowers x white flowers would produce only white flowered offspring, but I’m getting some with pink flowers. Is something else going on?

A: I have to admit that I was a bit shocked at your results. My genetic models predicted that white is the most recessive flower color and recessive x recessive should have given only recessive or white flowered offspring. There really isn’t a white pigment; the white coloration is the absence of all pigments to absorb light so all light is reflected off the flower, hence, the white coloration. Since you are convinced that these plants are the offspring of a self-pollination, it’s time to re-examine the genetic models and look for a different explanation.

I am aware of examples in animals and humans where albinos are caused by different genetic mutations. Albinism is a genetic recessive trait. Crossing two albinos together should always give albino offspring. However, there are different genetic mutations that result in the same outcome, albino coloration. When two different mutations for albino are crossed together, they do not breed true and non-albino offspring are produced. Your self-pollination of 'Gillian' would seem to be something similar, that there is a hidden gene for color in this plant that can be expressed when two different genes for white cancel each other out.

There has been speculation among some hybridizers that there is more than one mutation for white flowers. Some speak of the "albino white" versus "regular white". It's never been clear in my mind how you tell the two apart, but your results are supportive that there is more than one mutation for "white". Your results are the first data that I've seen that appear to support the existence of more than one mutation for "white" in African violets.

Perhaps not related to your results, but another factor worth mentioning is that some whites are probably a "pink" with very little penetration of the color under normal growing conditions. 'Frosted Whisper' is registered as a white flowered plant and blooms that color under most conditions. However, if grown very cool, 'Frosted Whisper' will flower a pale pink. In this plant, the mutation appears to be a restriction of the pink pigment production that is regulated by temperature. This is probably a different genetic mutation than the total inability to make any pigment. It may be that 'Gillian' has something similar, but the data isn't clear. In any event, it looks like we'll need to expand or modify the genetic models that showed white to be a simple recessive trait.

Q: Is it possible to combine thumbprint pattern with different forms of fantasy pattern?

A: Yes, it is possible to combine thumbprint pattern with different fantasy patterns. The traits are independent of each other and can be combined together. 'Playful Spectrum' was one of the first hybrids that combined thumbprint pattern with traditional fantasy pattern. The combination gave a

tri-colored flower with the white edges from thumbprint combined with the pink and blue of the fantasy pattern in the colored centers of the petals. I've also seen thumbprint combined with puff fantasy pattern and with reverse fantasy pattern. Each of these gives very interesting combinations of colors. Puff fantasy and thumbprint often gives tri-colored flowers. Reverse fantasy with the white streaks on a colored background usually give two colors in the flowers.

Something different that is making a big appearance in some Russian hybrids is combining different fantasy patterns on chimera flower. While the chimera trait is random and can't be specifically bred for, you can't hybridize for reverse fantasy and puff fantasy. Chimeras that have white outer stripes and colored center stripes are quite striking when the center stripes also contain puff fantasy or reverse fantasy. The market in Russia seems to favor striking colors, large size, interesting patterns and petal textures. It's not surprising that the traits for thumbprint, fantasy patterns and other traits are showing up more frequently in many Russian cultivars.

Q: Can reverse fantasy show in other colors besides white on a dark background?

A: Yes, I have recently seen pictures of a plant produced from 'Funambule' X 'Lyon's Red Rocket'. One of the offspring has a dark red maroon flower with reverse fantasy of light red. The plant had a number of other desirable traits such as good flower size, compact growth and excellent foliage. The flower color is pleasing although the reverse fantasy pattern is not obvious from a distance. The lighter red fantasy stripes don't contrast as sharply against the dark red background color like the regular reverse fantasy of white stripes on dark blue. However, in close-up the lighter red fantasy stripes sparkle like ruby glitter against the background and the contrast is very pleasing. The hybridizer was asking others on Facebook if the plant was good enough to release. Not surprisingly the reactions were very positive and I hope the hybridizer does release this new plant. So, based on this offspring, yes, it is possible to get the reverse fantasy pattern in other colors besides white stripes on blue.

Registration Report

By Joe Brun

1220 Stratford Lane • Hanover Park, IL 60133

Email: jbruns@qwip.net

Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses – Dolgeville, NY

'Beach Glass' (10914) 08/30/2017
(D. Lamphere/Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses)
Semidouble-double white pansy/blue and
green markings. Light green, quilted.
Semiminiature

'Blue Stardust' (10915) 08/30/2017
(D. Lamphere/Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses)
Single light pink sticktite star/blue fantasy. Medium
green, quilted. **Semiminiature**

'Christmas Dress' (10916) 08/30/2017 (P.
Sorano/Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses) Semidouble
red frilled pansy. Dark green, quilted/red back.
Standard

'Classic Charm' (10917) 08/30/2017 (P.
Sorano/Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses) Double dark
pink frilled pansy/darker eye, blue fantasy. **Varie-**
gated medium green, beige and cream, plain,
quilted. **Standard**

'Crackerjack Red' (10918) 08/30/2017 (P. So-
rano/Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses) Single-semidou-
ble coral-red pansy/maroon fantasied edge. Dark
green, quilted, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**

'Daydream Pink' (10919) 08/30/2017 (P. So-
rano/Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses) Double pink-
lavender frilled pansy/darker eye, shading to light
blue with blue fantasy, variable thin raspberry edge.
Dark green, serrated. **Standard**

'Eva' (10920) 08/30/2017 (P. Sorano/Lyndon
Lyon Greenhouses) Single pale pink pansy/purple
rays on upper petals, frilled maroon edge. **Varie-**
gated dark green, beige and cream, quilted/red
back. **Standard**

'Irish Ruffles' (10921) 08/30/2017 (D. Lam-
phere/Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses) Double white
star/pink mottling, green ruffled edge. **Variegated**
light green, beige and cream, wavy. **Standard**

'Jacob's Ladder' (10922) 08/30/2017 (P.
Sorano/Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses) Double laven-
der-purple two-tone ruffled star. Medium green,
quilted, serrated. **Standard**



'Ocean Surf' (10923) 08/30/2017
(D. Lamphere/Lyndon Lyon Green-
houses) Double lavender-purple two-
tone star/light pink and white fantasy,
frilled white edge. **Variegated** medium
green, beige and cream, quilted, ser-
rated. **Large**

'Panda Paws' (10924) 08/30/2017
(P. Sorano/Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses)
Single white sticktite frilled star/dark blue patches.
Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

'Raspberry Rain' (10925) 08/30/2017 (P.
Sorano/Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses) Single-semi-
double dark pink pansy/blue and maroon fantasy.
Variegated dark green, ivory and pink, plain,
quilted. **Standard**

'Silk Art' (10926) 08/30/2017 (P. Sorano/
Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses) Semidouble-double
pink ruffled star/darker eye, heavy blue fantasy.
Medium green, quilted, serrated. **Large**

'Tequila Rose' (10927) 08/30/2017 (P. So-
rano/Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses) Single-semidou-
ble rose-pink two-tone pansy/raspberry frilled edge.
Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

'Tropical Sunshine' (10928) 08/30/2017 (D.
Lamphere/Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses) Semidou-
ble-double frilled yellow star/wide white band, vari-
able thin green edge. Medium green, wavy,
serrated. **Standard**

Pat Hancock – Middletown, OH

'Buckeye Concord Grape' (10929) 09/08/2017
(P. Hancock) Single-semidouble dark purple large
ruffled star. **Variegated** dark green, cream and
pink, plain, glossy/red back. **Large**

'Buckeye Keep the Faith' (10930) 09/08/2017
(P. Hancock) Single-semidouble coral-pink ruffled
pansy/darker eye. **Variegated** dark green, cream
and pink, plain, glossy/red back. **Large**

'Buckeye My Oh My' (10931) 09/08/2017
(P. Hancock) Semidouble-double white ruffled
star/dark pink radiating eye. **Variegated** dark

green, cream and pink, ovate, glossy/red back.
Large

'Jitterbug Anne's Delight' (10932) 09/08/2017

(P. Hancock) Single-semidouble light pink pansy/
darker-tipped top petals. **Variegated** medium green,
cream and pink, plain, glossy. **Miniature**



Additional Awards: 2018 AVSA/AVSC Convention Show Awards

By Debbie McInnis • Buffalo, NY

Specific Variety Awards - Amateur Division

Best Jersey Snowflakes - \$50 - Pat Hancock (OH)

Best Cranberry Sparkler - \$50 -

Bob Kurzynski (NJ)

Best Jersey Lilacs - \$20 - Karyn Cichocki -

In honor of Bob Kurzynski (NJ)

Best Marching Band - \$20 - Karyn Cichocki -

In honor of Kent Stork (NJ)

Best Jack of Spades - Rocky Mt. AV Council -

In memory of Kent Stork (CO)

Other Awards - Design Division

\$25 - Albuquerque AVC (NM)

Other Awards - Undesignated

\$25 - Leonard Re (CA)

\$50 - Tampa AVS (FL)

Other Awards Amateur Horticulture

\$100 - Streptocarpus - Rocky Mountain
AV Council (CO)

\$100 - Ohio State AVS (OH)

Thanks to the many individuals, clubs and
councils who have offered their generous award
support for the 2018 Buffalo, New York
AVSA/AVSC Show. It is your generosity that puts
the smiles on the faces of the winners.

If your name, club or council is not on this list,
there is still time to be included. Please send your
check or money order to:

AVSA Awards

2375 North Street
Beaumont, TX 77702

Even though we are behind schedule this year,
with a late start, I'm sure we will be receiving your
donations soon. We look forward to hearing from
you!

The final deadline to be listed in the Souvenir
Book will be **April 8, 2018**. You may view a cur-
rent awards listing on the AVSA web site at
www.avsa.org under Convention. Although every
attempt has been made to list awards correctly, we
reserve the right to modify or change these listings.

Note from Interim Editor: Additional awards by Debbie McInnis on page 28 from the November-December
2017 AVM were left out of the article. My apologies.

Shirley Jones

First Class Here and There

By David Kesler

Chairman - AVSA Technology Committee

Things are changing fast. First Class for Mac was introduced just a few months ago and now there is a new First Class iPhone/iPad app available in the App Store.

First the 'Here' (desktop) of First Class

I wanted to let everyone know that a significant feature has been added to First Class for Mac. You can now backup and restore your User Database to the cloud. This is a feature that is only available to AVSA members whose membership is current and on First Class for Mac. It backs up all of the information in your User Database records, the pictures that are tied to those records as well as the photo credit information, all of the notes that are on the AVML records, as well as the 'setup' information in your system.

Now the 'There' (iPhone/iPad) of First Class

The new iPhone/iPad app is called "FCViewer". When you go to the App Store, search for "FCViewer". There are a few apps that will come up with that search, just pick the one with the "First Class" Stamp as an icon. FCViewer is designed to give access to the information and photos that are in the African Violet Master List (AVML). Even though you must buy FCViewer through the App Store, all proceeds will go to AVSA. You don't have to have First Class for Mac to use the FCViewer app.

FCViewer is a 'lite weight' app, that is, the data for the AVML is not stored on the phone/tablet, but is accessed via the internet. Their advantages and disadvantages when compared with First Class for Mobile, the other phone app that is available to access AVML.

The advantages of FCViewer:

The updates that are provided on a bi-monthly basis are automatically available to users that have a valid password from AVSA. This works because a central database is used by all the

FCViewer customers and is updated soon after Joe Bruns issues his database updates. So there is no downloading of updates to individual phones.

The app takes very little memory on the phone, less than 35 Mbytes.

The app is very targeted in what it is designed to do. It allows you to look up cultivars and their photos in the Master List in a variety of ways. It has an innovative look-up method that does not employ the use of the keyboard. This option is called the Directory view. FCViewer also allows for very flexible searches similar to those available on the desktop programs. This option is called the Search view and does employ a combination of keyboard and 'picker' lists.

The app uses the same password from AVSA that you use for the desktop First Class, either for PC or Mac. You don't have to buy a separate subscription for database updates.

One additional advantage that you must read the entire article to discover.

The disadvantages of FCViewer:

You must be connected to the internet to be able to use the program. This is a mobile app and internet connectivity is getting better all the time, either through the cellular system of the phone company or a Wi-Fi connection. If you don't have a signal or a Wi-Fi connection at a location, you will not be able to see the information in AVML.

If you want to use the "Wish List", post to social media, or print from your phone, FCViewer will not be able to help you.

The software offerings of AVSA have expanded over the last year. You can view a detailed comparison of all the products in the 'software' section of the Store on the AVSA website.

Finally, the 'Here and There' (desktop and mobile) of First Class.

When you backup your User Database information inside First Class for Mac, and you have

FCViewer on your mobile device, you will be able to access your User Database from your phone. Just make sure that your membership number is entered into the settings panel on your phone. You can't add information to your database on the

phone but you can see the descriptions and the photos that you have in your User Database on your desktop/laptop system. There are more developments in the technology area coming in 2018, stay tuned!

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND

Karen Broadway - Chairman • 10028 N. 58th Lane • Glendale, AZ 85302-1334
Donations received from July 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017 • **Total = \$145.00**



Multicolor - \$50-\$99

Desert Sun AVGS, Phoenix, AZ

In Memory of Kent Stork

Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs, Greendale, WI

Caroline Storey, San Marcos, TX

Early Bird Violet Club, Birmingham, AL

In Memory of Ramona Hodges

Columbus AVS, Columbus, OH

Kathryn H. Braund, Dadeville, IL

In Memory of Janet Stromborg

Rita Marie Kuni, Columbia, IL

Evening AVC Des Moines, Des Moines, IA

In Memory of Kent Stork

Albuquerque AVC, Albuquerque, NM

AVC of Greater Atlanta, Atlanta, GA

In Memory of Miriam Greene



Two-Tone - \$25-\$49

First Nighter AVS of Dallas, Dallas, TX

Emilia Rykowski, Clifton, NJ

Spring Branch AVC, Missouri City, TX

Susan Smith, Scarborough, ON MIN 3E5, Canada

Kathryn Spissman, Mrs. Strep Streps, Tucker, GA

In Memory of Miriam Greene



Thumbprint - Under \$25

Christopher J. Beney, Iowa City, IA

Julie K. Gibson, San Antonio, TX

Marion Gillen, San Francisco, CA

Kris Johnson, Bellingham, WA

Gail Podany, Minnetonka, MN

Crosstown AVC, Waunakee, WI

Robert Kurzynski, Clifton, NJ

In Memory of Kent Stork

Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council, St. Louis MO

In Memory of Marion Hamtil

Gwen Goodship-Patience, Berkshire, England

Cliff Berger, Plymouth, IN



**Mark Your
Calendar!
Buffalo, NY
AVSA-AVSC
Convention
May 20 - 27, 2018**

Venture Out Beyond The Adams Mark Hotel

Convention 2018 • Buffalo, NY

Buffalo is an historic city and you can experience plenty of it just steps outside the convention hotel next May.

Two tenths of a mile from the Adam's Mark Hotel you can find Niagara Square. The square is the central hub of Joseph Ellicott's original radial street pattern designed in 1804. It is said to have been named for one of the local Native tribes and has become the nexus of downtown Buffalo. Many architectural jewels are located in Niagara Square including City Hall.

City Hall is a 32 story high building built in the Art Deco style. The decorative art illustrates significant elements of Buffalo's past such as themes of the Iroquois Indian Nation, the development of the Erie Canal, the area's relationship with Canada and the pioneering and industrial spirit of the area. The Chrysler Building and Rockefeller Center in New York City were built in the same time frame.

The Ellicott Square Building is three tenths of a mile from the Adam's Mark. It was completed in 1896 as one the largest, finest, and most complete office buildings in America. The land it sits upon was the original home of Joseph Ellicott reserved for his private estate and residence. At a cost of 3.5 million dollars it contained 10 stories, 60 offices and 40 stores, along with a central court.

The same distance from the hotel is the Consulate General of Canada and Coca Cola Field, home of the Buffalo Bisons (farm team for the Toronto Blue Jays).

Lafayette Square is one of three squares laid out in Ellicott's city plan. The Public Library, the Main Court Building and several historic hotels are found in the square.

Four tenths of a mile is the Old Post Office building. Currently the site of Erie Community

College City Campus it is a monumental building incorporating Romanesque Revival, Chateausque and French Gothic features executed in pink Vermont granite. Look up at the tall square tower to find fierce gargoyles and glowering eagles.

One of the most beautiful places in the City is the Erie Basin Marina. A stunning location where the Buffalo River meets the Lake it combines a waterfront path with a public park, a waterfront observation tower and several places to eat.

Canalside is a historic district within Buffalo that was once the western terminus of the Erie Canal. Today it includes the Commercial Slip, historically reconstructed Erie and Main-Hamburg Canals and the Buffalo and Erie County Naval

Military Park among others. Canalside has become the jewel in the waterfront

crown as a result of over \$300 million in new development.

More than 1,000 annual events are held here each year these include outside yoga classes, children's activities, markets and concerts.

The Buffalo and Erie County

Naval and Military Park are a short half-mile from the hotel. It is home to several decommissioned US Naval vessels including the USS Little Rock, The USS Sullivan, and the submarine USS Croaker all of which are open for public touring. Smaller vehicles and vessels can also be found including a one man helicopter, an army Bulldog tank, and Armored Personnel carrier, and UH-1 Huey flown in Vietnam and a World War II aircraft built by Bell Aircraft in Buffalo.

A quick look at the tours page of Explorebuffalo.org will give you an idea of numerous short walking tours of the city tailored to every interest. We love to eat in Buffalo so enjoy our cuisine to your hearts content and then walk off those calories enjoying our fabulous city.



Little Blue Bandit

Exhibited by: Kathy Lahti

Hybridized by: P. Sorano

Miniature



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



My Sister BFF

Exhibited by: Kathy Lahti

Hybridized by: P. Addison

Semiminiature

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

"Timeless Violets"

By Winston J. Goretsky

The AVSA Executive Committee gathers in the fall each year to hold a formal meeting and transact the business of AVSA. Traditionally, the venue of this meeting has been varied between locations and regularly held in Beaumont, TX at the Headquarters of AVSA.

Over the past few years, we have enjoyed invitations to hold our meeting in conjunction with a fall show, which has taken place at a convenient time and location for us all to attend.

This past October-2017, the Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society (MAAVS) was our gracious host. The hotel accommodations, meals and outings had already been made for the normal course of events already set, so our independent planning was unnecessary. We were all able to participate in a weekend of violets, speakers, plants sales and we were also able to take a tour of historic Fredericksburg, which I truly enjoyed.

Saturday was the weekend preceding Halloween and children were dressed in period costumes to participate in visiting the various shops and businesses who offered "Treats on the Street". It was old fashion trick or treat and everyone seemed to enjoy dressing their part and joining in.

The theme of the Violet Show, hosted by MAAVS, was entitled "Timeless Violets". It was a survey of the years from the 1920's through to the 2000's. The show schedule was quite intriguing and focused on a period of time for each design category.

The Best in Design was an underwater flower arrangement. The show schedule offered the following as the requirement for this class:

"2000s" - Known as the New Millennium, it was the age when water was discovered on the moon, Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, arctic sea ice hit a record low, and Michael Phelps, aka the "flying fish," broke an Olympic record by winning 8 individual gold medals in swimming. An underwater flower arrangement suggesting the 2000s era.

When we visit a show and look at the designs, we sometimes view the exhibits without benefit of the show schedule and miss the whole interpretive value of what we are seeing.

A number of weeks or months before actually arriving at the MAAVS convention, Sue Hoffman had asked if I would be willing to take some photographs of their show. I agreed and brought my equipment with me as I travelled. I hope you enjoy some of the various exhibits that are shown in this issue and I hope to provide a few more in a future issue as well.

We all like to get involved in growing, or showing or learning new things, but just being part of the overall activity is one of the best things that I have always enjoyed about being involved with AVSA. I always try to encourage people to find a local club which has regular meetings and to get involved. You may find it takes a bit of time, but the wait is worth it. If you already know what you want to do, then tell someone what you want to do. You'll be surprised by how your assertiveness will be turned into welcomed enthusiasm.

If you are a member of a local, regional or larger group, please try to encourage others to help you with some of your tasks and responsibilities. Not one of us was ever an expert at the beginning of our journey. Take the time to be a mentor to a new member. You'll be surprised by how much you've forgotten, when you teach the basic principles to an eager enthusiast. What we learn and take for granted is not always obvious and evident to a beginner. We learn from our mistakes and hopefully don't keep repeating them. The excitement of our passion is continually renewed in the discovery of new and exciting things.

Let's help keep "Violets Timeless" by continually renewing our enthusiasm through different ways and sharing our knowledge with others.

"Timeless Violets" from MAAVS

Underwater Design - "2000's"

Exhibited by: Pat Knight

Best Design in Show

Tricolor in Design

Best Cut

Blossom Arrangement



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Episica 'Faded Jade'

Exhibited by:

Kitty Hedgepeth

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Cajun's Beautiful Oblivion

Exhibited by: B. Thibodeaux

Hybridized by: B. Thibodeaux

Standard

Anne & Frank Tinari Endowment Fund

Janet Riemer • 256 Pennington-Harbourton Rd. • Pennington, NJ 08534

September-October 2017 • **Total this period: \$2,627.00**



Fantasy – \$500-\$999

Barbara J. Burde

In memory of Kent Stork and John Carter



Geneva – \$100-\$499

Omaha African Violet & Gesneriad Society

In memory of Kent Stork

Missouri Valley African Violet Council

In memory of Kent Stork

Terry Klemesrud

In memory of John Carter

Sue and Charles Ramser

*In memory of John Carter, Joanie Sleeper,
Verna Pickren and Bill Foster's nephew*

Anne and Richard Nicholas

In memory of John Carter

Anne and Richard Nicholas

In memory of Kent Stork

Thimble Island African Violet Society

Missouri Valley African Violet Council

In memory of John Carter

Oshkosh Violet Society

In memory of Sharon Johnson and

in lieu of speaker fee for Steve Gonzalez

Albuquerque African Violet Club



Multicolor – \$50-\$99

Scott and Julie Adams

In memory of John Carter

Joyce Stork

In memory of John Carter

Jack and Jane Cochran

In memory of John Carter

John, Karen, Lucy and Andrew Mathes

In memory of John Carter

Ohio State African Violet Society

In memory of Kent Stork

Ohio State African Violet Society

In memory of John Carter

First African Violet Society of Wichita Falls

*In memory of Joanie Sleeper and
Verna Pickren*

Missouri Valley African Violet Council

In memory of Mark Whitmer

First Nighter African Violet Society of Dallas

In memory of John Carter

Delaware African Violet & Gesneriad Society

*In lieu of judging expenses for Ken and
Sue Barbi, Judith Smith, Joan Santino,
Karyn Cichocki and Sue Hanna*



Two-Tone – \$25-\$49

Linda and Albert Hall

In memory of John Carter

Janet Riemer

In memory of John Carter

Don and Brenda Johnson

In memory of John Carter

Mary Jo Neal

In memory of John Carter

Curtis Northrup

In memory of John Carter

John Mathes

In memory of John Carter

Lynne Dorr

In memory of Sharon Johnson

Wichita African Violet Study Club

First African Violet Society of Dallas

In lieu of speaker fee for Richard Nicholas

Crosstown African Violet Club

First African Violet Society of Denton

In lieu of speaker fee for Ron Davidson

First African Violet Society of Denton

In memory of John Carter

Janet Ardoin

North Texas African Violet Judges Council

In memory of John Carter



Thumbprint – Under \$25

Suet Lai Yeung Rosetta

Coming Events

February 9-10 - Florida

African Violet Club of Ocala
Annual AVSA Judged Show/Sale
February 9: Noon to 5:00 pm
February 10: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Southeastern Livestock Pavilion
2232 NE Jacksonville Road
Ocala, Florida 34470
VioletsRFun@yahoo.com
www.AfricanVioletClubofOcala.org

February 17 - Arizona

Desert Sun AV &
Gesneriad Society
Annual Judged Show & Sale
Phoenix Valley Garden Center
1809 N. 15th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ
Saturday, February 17, 2018
Sales: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Show: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Ann Stoetzer (623) 398-8133
anncie@cox.net

March 10 - California

South Coast AVS
Judged Show/Sale
South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA
Hours: 11 am - 4 pm
Culture class 10:30 am
Info: Jacquie Eisenhut
(310) 325-2993
jaceis905@gmail.com

March 16-17 - Texas

First AVS of Denton Show and Sale
March 16 - 17, 2018
Friday, March 16, 1 - 4 pm
Saturday, March 17
10 am - 3:30 pm



March 17 - Texas

First Austin African Violet Society
49th Annual Judged Show and Sale
Austin Area Garden Center
Zilker Botanical Garden
2220 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX 78746
March 17 - 9:00 am - 4:30 pm
info: Susan Kautz (512) 365-1818
gizzmo@austin.rr.com
www.faavs.org

March 24 - Delaware

Delaware African Violet &
Gesneriad Society
Display and Plant Sale
Saturday, March 24, 2018
10 am to 4 pm
Bosco's Department Store
Christiana Town Center
Route 273, Christiana, DE 19702
rlafash@comcast.net

March 24 - Michigan

Michigan State African
Violet Society
Display & Sale, African Violets
Streps & other Gesneriads
Saturday, March 24, 2018
10 am - 4:00 pm
Matthaei Botanical Gardens
1800 Dixboro Rd
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
LynnAllen0413@comcast.net

April 14 - Connecticut

Thimble Islands AVS Show/Sale
Saturday, April 14: 10 am to 3 pm
Willoughby Wallace Library
146 Thimble Islands Road
Exit 56, Branford
Madeline Clem
(203) 481-9455

April 27 - 29 Iowa

The Evening African Violet
Club of Des Moines
Annual Judged Show & Sale
"Violets are Golden"
Merle Hay Mall
3850 Merle Hay Road
Des Moines, Iowa
Friday April 27 - Sale noon - 9 pm
Saturday April 28 - Sale
10 am - 9 pm and
Show Open after judging
Sunday April 29 - Show and Sale
10 am - 4 pm
Tina Cook - Show Chair
mollymonster0305@gmail.com
Facebook: The Evening African
Club of Des Moines

April 28-29 - Maryland

The Bay State African Violet
Society Spring Show
Tower Hill Botanic Gardens
Boylston, MA
Saturday, April 28
10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sunday, April 29
10:00 am to 4:00 pm

April 28-29 - Virginia

Tidewater African Violet Society
Show and Sale
Norfolk Botanical Gardens
6700 Azalea Garden Rd.
Norfolk, VA
Sat. April 28 - 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Sun. April 29 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
POC: Pat Knight - (757) 479-2115

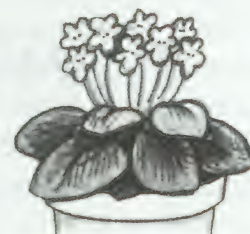




Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Jolly Dear

Exhibited by: Angela Newell

Hybridized by: H. Pittman

Semiminiature



Buckeye Nostalgia

2017 Lone Star Best in Show Winner

Exhibited by: Wayne Geeslin

Hybridized by: Pat Hancock

If I Can Make a Huge Comeback, So Can You!

Wayne Geeslin • Sugar Land, TX

Have you ever known a violet grower who showed African violets over a 14-year period during the early 1980s to mid-1990s and was a multi best in show winner, then retired from showing for 24 years and later made a huge comeback with two back-to-back bests in show, including the Houston show and the Lone Star state show, one of the most prestigious shows in the country, both in 2017? Well, you do now!

This year's 42nd annual Lone Star show was held in Houston, TX, November 8-11, and for the first time ever, the show changed to an "open" show format. Previously, the only growers eligible to show at Lone Star were Texas affiliate clubs and their members and independent Texas growers who didn't belong to a Texas club but paid a membership fee to become a member of the Lone Star African Violet Council (LSAVC). Now, literally anyone in the world who becomes a member of LSAVC can compete at this elite show.

Starting in November 2017, with the new open show format in place, the Lone Star show was attended by 102 registrants from eight states, including Texas, Arizona, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Iowa, Nevada and Florida, and three countries including the U.S., Canada and Russia. There were a total of 323 entries and 41 exhibitors, including five former Lone Star state best in show winners (including an 11-time Lone Star winner who also has won two AVSA national bests in show) and four former AVSA national best in show winners (including a 4-time national BIS winner and Canadian national BIS winner). The overall quality of both exhibitors and entries at this year's Lone Star show was extremely high, and it was probably the most difficult show to win in the country during the 2017 calendar year.



I am very pleased to report that my 23 horticulture entries (my all-time record number of entries) won 23 blue ribbons and a total of 21 awards above and beyond a blue ribbon, including Best in Show, Best Standard and Best Variegated (Buckeye Nostalgia); Best AVSA Standard Collection (Buckeye Nostalgia, Cajun's Flamboyant Mistress and Cajun's Storm Watch);

2nd Best Semi/Mini AVSA Collection (Rob's Boogie Woogie, Rob's Outer Orbit and Rob's Suicidal Squirrel); Best Miniature (Rob's Chilly Willy); the Paula Foster Memorial Award (Cajun's Flamboyant Mistress); Best Vintage Violet (Juicy), Best Species (S. 5c2 clone diplotricha Parker); and twelve Best in Class (BIC) awards: BIC 13 (Kansas City Barbeque), BIC 18 (Frozen in Time), BIC 19 (Buckeye Nostalgia – note: I showed two Buckeye Nostalgia entries, one in the regular variegated color class and one in my AVSA collection), BIC 20 (Ness' Candy Pink), BIC 21 (Jersey Snow Flakes), BIC 24 (Picasso, my best in show winner from the March 2017 Houston show), BIC 31 (Sassy Shirley), BIC 41 (Jolly Jubilee), BIC 45 (Rob's Chilly Willy), BIC 51 (sport of Rob's June Bug), BIC 57 (Juicy), and BIC 58 (S. 5c2 clone diplotricha Parker).



It was an absolutely incredible experience for me to make a huge comeback like this after a 24-year absence from showing and to win in extremely tough competition with so many former state and national best in show winners competing. Four of the seven violets on the head table were my own entries. I guess it doesn't get much better than that. Right? Besides my Best in Show Buckeye Nostalgia, I am very proud of another plant (Juicy) which won Best Vintage and made the head table. This plant is actually a 2-year-old "bloom stem baby" from my 31-year-old Juicy which won 2nd Best in Show exactly 30 years earlier at the 1987 Lone Star show and convention held in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Until this year's Lone Star show, I had never shown a miniature or semi-miniature in an AVSA show, dating back to my very first show in March 1981. I have always been known for my large standards. At this year's Lone Star show, I showed two miniatures and eight semi-miniatures and won Best Miniature with Rob's Chilly Willy and the AVSA purple rosette with three semi-miniatures. Also, I entered a species violet for the first time in my showing career and won Best Species.

Obviously, I am still floating on cloud 9 and I can assure you, I will not be coming down from this high for a long time. My name and Buckeye Nostalgia's photo are already up on the Lone Star website and will forever be a part of Lone Star best in show history. It is an absolute honor to be in the same company with some of our former Lone Star best in show winners,



including 11-time winner Richard Nicholas, 4-time winner Martha Turner, 3-time winners Anne Nicholas and Gerri Goins, 2-time winners Hortense Pitman and Ben Haning, Mary Corondan, Danny Tidwell, Steven Spachek, Marge Savage, and a few others who are either no longer with us or no longer competing.

I would like to thank two people, among many who encouraged me to follow through with my comeback. First, Pat Hancock, for hybridizing Buckeye Nostalgia which I personally consider the most magnificent African violet ever hybridized. And second, my partner Domingo Gonzales for standing by my side for 18 1/2 years (and counting) and being my biggest fan and cheerleader who has given me constant encouragement to make this comeback and took off work to get me and my 23 entries to the show while he drove and I rode in the back of a rented U-Haul cargo van with all my show entries. I feel very blessed to be able to have a hobby that is so rewarding and one that I can share with the most incredible people who adore African violets just as much as I do, if not more.

If I can make a huge comeback like this with all the obstacles I faced in 2017, with Hurricane

Harvey and being evacuated from our home for four days, our downstairs A/C unit breaking down following the hurricane and being out of commission for a full week, and my mom (the single most important person in my life for almost 58 years) passing away just two weeks before Lone Star, you can certainly make a comeback, too. I say GO FOR IT!



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Cajun's Amaretto

Exhibited by: Belinda Thibodeaux

Hybridized by: B. Thibodeaux

Standard

"And the winners are ..." 434 Plumwood Way • Fairview, TX 75069

By Mary Corondan

Email: mcorondan@yahoo.com

ALBUQUERQUE AVC, NM – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: K's Summer Plum Smash, Ace of Diamonds, Lyon's Red Rocket; Best Standard: K's Cherry Chip Frosting; Best Trailer: Rob's Humpty Doo; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kathy Hajner**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Cocoa', **JoEllen Bowden**. Best Design, **Lona Pidanick**. Design Sweepstakes, **Carol Skaggs**.



Way Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Carol Semrau**. Best Miniature: Jolly Cupid; Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosmea* 'Keystone's Blue Jay', **Patricia Kono**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Werness**.

OHIO STATE AVS, OH – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Claret Wine, Buckeye Too Shameless, Buckeye Cranberry

MISSOURI VALLEY AV COUNCIL, MO – Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: California Sunset, Cajun's Lil Joy, Cajun's Lil Sprinkles; Best Standard: Optimara Tradition; Best Gesneriad: *Primulina dryas latifolia* 'Dwarf', **Terri Post**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jolly Butterfly, Lollipop Kid, Rob's Mad Cat; Best Species Collection: *S. 5b* clone *grotei*, *S. 5c2* clone *diplotricha* Parker, *S. 5b* clone *confusa*, **Dale Cox**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Jolly Frills; Best Miniature: Blue Blazes, **Randy McMahon**. Best Trailer: Aly's Rosey Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Catherine Thompson**. Best Species: *S. 5h* clone *velutina* light, **Linda Sumski**. Best Design, **Sherrie Wallace**. Design Sweepstakes, **BJ Ohme**.

NORTH STAR AV COUNCIL, MN – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tatanka, Rebel's Blaze Spinner, Cajun's Fair Maiden; Best Semiminiature: Jolly Frills; Best Species: *S. clone rupicola*, **Gail Podany**. 2nd Best AVSA Collection: Buckeye Seductress, Sora Three Doors, Ian-Minuet; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jolly Dear, Rebel's Meg, Cherry Princess; Best in Show/Best Standard: Buckeye Seductress; Best Trailer: Milky

Sparkler; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jersey Sugar Plums, Optimara Little Arapahoe, Jolly Sizzler; Best Species Collection: *S. 8* clone ChaSimba, *S. 5a* clone *grandifolia* #237, *S. 5cl* clone House of Amani; Best Semiminiature: Optimara Little Arapahoe; Best Miniature: Petite Blarney; Best Species: *S. 51* clone *grandifolia* #237, **Debbie McInnis**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Everdina, Rob's Chilly Willy, Tiny Blue, **Penny Wichman**. Best Standard: Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler, **Linda Lloyd**. Best Trailer: Jersey Starlight Trail, **Karen Cichocki**. Best Gesneriad: *Primulina* 'Loki', **Terri Vicenzi**. Best Design, **Vicki Ferguson**.

SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY AVC, NJ – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Silverglade Streams, Annabelle, Wisteria; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Slap Happy, Irish Angel, Alchemy Gold; Best in Show/Best Species: *S. 8* clone *rupicola*; Best Standard: Annabelle; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Combustible Pigeon; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Donna Brining**. Best Trailer: Pixie Blue, **George Bollenbach**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* Temptation, **Maryann McClellan**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Joanna Infrerra**.



A Tale of Two Cities

By Penny Wichman

What do you do when your club membership declines and you do not have enough active members to put on a show? You do what the Cincinnati and Dayton African Violet Societies have done for the past three years, and join forces. It was suggested by someone who was a member of both clubs to combine our talents and put on one big show instead of two really small ones.

After much discussion and compromise, we decided to give it a try. The first year our show theme was even "A Tale of Two Cities." We used popular landmarks from each city as our design class titles.

It really turned out to be the best of both worlds. The Cincinnati club had a great location, and although they had quite a few "growers for show," they just did not have enough people to do all of the necessary jobs.

The Dayton club was having difficulty finding a good location for their show and they had more

people that were interested in selling or helping put on a show than were interested in growing plants for the show.

Our show chairman, Karen Cenci, just happens to now be a member of both clubs, so we were able to communicate much better this year. We were able to draw on the talents of members from both clubs to fill all of the committees. With all of the extra help on Friday night we were able to set up the show in record time.

We just finished our 3rd successful, combined show. With help from members of both clubs, no one was over worked and everyone was able to enjoy the show. What a great solution to the declining membership problem that a lot of clubs are now having.

From 'The Violet Connection'
Publication of the Ohio State AVS

AVSA – Building Maintenance Fund

Susan Hapner - Chairman • 12916 Midfield Terrace • St. Louis, MO 63146

October 1, 2017 - November 30, 2017 • **TOTAL: \$660.00**



Thumbprint - Under \$25

Sandra Sanders

Mary Ann Moreno

Gail Podany

Charles Willett

David Morel

Stephanie Zich

Tri-State A.V. Council

*In lieu of judging expenses for
Susan Arnao and Marianne Gershon*



Two-Tone - \$25-\$49

Loveland Sweetheart Violettes/CO

In memory of Kent Stork

Janet M. Fox

Crosstown AVC/WI

Barbara Taswell-Miller

Marcia Jacobs

*In memory of Marion Hamtil -
she will be missed*

Marcia Jacobs

In memory of Barry Hapner



Multi Color - \$50-\$99

Albuquerque AVC



Geneva - \$100-\$499

Desert Sun AVS/AZ

Rocky Mountain AV Council/CO

More Is Better

By Sally Coady

I have way too many African violets. I just can't seem to get enough - more is better - right? Yes, if you are a grower or a hobbyist with an African Violet room - oh how I wish that was me.

How do I get my collection down to a manageable size? Some are miniatures so they don't take up much room. My theory has been if you have one standard taking up space you can put 3 miniatures in its place. That sounds good to me but what about having enough time to take care of the extra plants? More might not be better.

What to do? Every time I get my African Violet magazine I immediately go to the articles on how to downsize and then I go through my plants to see if I really need them. (Secretly I do want all of them but I know I want new ones too). I go through my list.

Are my AV's going to a show? Are they good enough to give to a friend? Are they good for propagation? (maybe I better save a leaf or two), are they good for the worm bin?

That took care of some of them. Oh dear, I need to do more.

Okay next step - is it a good bloomer? When was the last time it bloomed? I'm thinking some of them haven't bloomed in maybe 2 or 3 years. I do remember how pretty they were when they did bloom. Best decision is to toss them. Are the leaves limp? Toss it! Looks like I'm on a roll. Let's keep going. I notice that some look dull and lifeless.

Time to toss them. I found one with a long neck but still blooms (this one I can drop pot - YAY!!!!). This is a keeper.

My Russian AV's are getting bigger - I really need another plant light but where to put it? There is no more room so back to downsizing my collection.

What more can I do? After carefully inspecting my plants I realize I have more than one of the same African violets. I knew it all the time but they all look good. Do I really need 3 of the same? If it's one of my favorites like "Loose Noodle" a very good bloomer yes but I must be firm. I make a list of doubles or triples and immediately call my friends to see if they want them. I will deliver them right away. Yes, they do! The saying goes "out of sight, out of mind". I need to practice this one more often.

My plants look GREAT! They are no longer crowded and they seem to have perked up a bit. Why didn't I do this sooner?

I will do this again in a couple of months-about the time my next issue of African Violet magazine comes. I've already marked my calendar but in the mean time I'm planning on getting some 'new-comers' next spring. So much to choose from!

Maybe I better get another plant light just in case. I'm sure after careful thinking and planning I just might find a place for one more grow light and for another shipment of plants. When it comes to African violets more might not be better but they sure are a lot of fun!





In Memory



Joan (Joanie) Findley Sleeper

Joan (Joanie) Findley Sleeper passed away May 18, 2017 in Abilene, Texas where she had moved to be near family. Joanie was born in Olean, New York. She was preceded in death by her parents as well as her husband, Herbert Sleeper. Joanie lived in Wichita Falls, Texas and while there was a member of the First African Violet Society of Wichita Falls. Joanie loved African violets and entered many shows winning many awards for her beautiful African violets, other gesneriads and designs. She held many offices in the First African Violet Society of Wichita Falls including President and Show Chairman. She was also a member of the Lone Star African Violet Council and the African Violet Society of America.

Joanie is survived by her children Michael Findley, MD, Gerald Findley, Sheila Hardman and by two sisters.

Joanie Sleeper will be missed by all.

Verna Lee Pickren

Verna Lee Pickren passed away August 25, 2017. Verna was born in Crafton, Texas and moved to Wichita Falls in the 1940's where she met her first husband. Later in life, Verna married her second husband, Wren Pickren. Verna loved plants, tending her Irises, native grasses and flowers in her vast garden. She loved to go "birding" all over the southwestern United States, chasing down rare sparrows and warblers. Verna nurtured African violets all over her home, even considering some of them family members. Verna was a member of the First African Violet Society of Wichita Falls. She served the club in many ways over the years including many officer positions, on show committees and winning awards both in design and horticulture. Verna was also a member of the Lone Star African Violet Council

and the African Violet Society of America.

Verna is survived by two sons, grandchildren, great grandchildren and a great-great grandson. She was preceded in death by her first son, her first husband, her second husband, parents, three sisters and brother.

Verna Pickren will be missed by all.

Judy Ellis

Memphis AVS lost a long time, valued member on July 22, 2017. Judy Ellis was a two time Club President and held many other posts over the years. An avid show grower, she became interested in becoming a Judge, and worked her way up to the rank of Master Judge recently after many years judging. An avid gardener, she grew many different types of flowers outside as well. Some lucky gardeners who attended our Club shows may have bought one of her favorites, begonia evansiana which is hardy outside here. Her laughter, smiles, and wit will be missed by all.

Miriam Kaminsky Greene

Miriam Kaminsky Greene, age 78 of Sioux Falls passed away September 14, 2017. Miriam is survived by the love of her life, Joel Greene. They were married December 3, 1967 and raised three daughters. Miriam made the communities she lived in a better place through her love of plants and music. She played the clarinet in community bands all over the country and was a producer and hostess of her own local cable TV show in Michigan and South Dakota. Many will miss her. Memorial Service was held in October. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Avera Doherty Hospice House, 4509 S. Prince of Peace Place, Sioux Falls, SD 57103.

Published in The Argus Leader on September 24, 2017.

Bees do it - so can you!!!

By Pat Hancock

It's all about making new African violets that are your very own. Only two parts of the flower are involved in making a seed pod - the pistal and the anthers (pollen sacs). Choose healthy plants with no thrips or mildew. The plant that you choose to be the seed parent (mother) should have recently been repotted since it can no longer be disturbed for at least three to four months.

With your fingers or a small scissor, remove the anthers from the bloom on the seed parent. This is done to insure that the cross you make is correct and cannot be a "self" cross from the bloom's own anthers. Choose blooms that have been open for two or three days. The first bloom on a stem will usually be "receptive" about the time the second bloom on the stem opens. The stigma on the end of the pistal will usually look a little wet or shiny. Next, choose the plant that you wish to use as the pollen parent (father). That bloom should also have been open for two or three days or when the second bloom opens. I have tried several ways to transfer the pollen to the stigma - some that worked and some that did not.

With a small scissor, cut the anthers open and with your fingers, flick them so that the pollen flies out. You may flick it on to your thumbnail or onto the flower itself. Either way, you then must touch the stigma with the powder, being careful not to damage it with too much pressure. Prepare a tag on a string with the name of the pollen parent and the date you made the cross. Wrap the tag around the blossom stem and wait.

Seed pods seem to like company so it is a good idea to pollinate several flowers at the same time. The first sign that the cross has "taken" is the wilting of the flower. Soon it will bend over and try to hide itself under the foliage. Seed pods need to be on the plant and healthy for at least 36 months in our Ohio climate. I am told that they mature much earlier in the South, especially in Texas.

When the seed pods start to dry up, they should be removed from the plant and placed in a warm

dry place to dry completely. When they are completely dry they may be planted or enclosed in an envelope and stored in the refrigerator.

There are many different planting mediums. For years, I used Jiffy Pots, soaked in water. There are also "seed starters" mixtures available in stores that work well for all types of seeds. At present, I am using my regular AV soil with a sprinkling of very fine vermiculite on top of the mix. The soil is moist, not soaking wet. I microwave it for about one minute (to prevent damping off of the seedlings). Then, while the soil cools, I prepare the seed.

Some pods will have only a few seeds, some will have more than 200 seeds. I fold a sheet of white paper in half and then fold again into fourths, making an indenture for the seed to settle in. With a sharp scissor, I cut into the seedpod while holding it over the paper. The seed will fall out. They look like grains of pepper. I use the point of the scissor sometimes to get out stubborn seed that want to stick in the pod. Hold the paper over the planting medium and tap it slightly so as to spread the seed as evenly as possible. Cover with Saran wrap (securing with a rubber band) or with a clear lid (with a few holes in it). Now the waiting begins. Place the containers about 6" to 8" from the lights. It usually takes about two to three weeks for little plants to show. It could take even longer. After about one week, I open and spritz it with warm water, so that the soil does not dry out. Continue to check periodically and once the babies appear, spritz each week so that the soil does not get too dry. Remember, they will be very delicate for a while.

When they have four leaves they are ready to be given a pot of their own. I use my regular soil, and wicked Solo cups. Be sure to write all inheritance information on the cup. This is most important if you made more than one cross. Each seedling will have only one long tap root, but they are very strong and it is unusual for them to die.

Cover with a plastic bag for about two weeks. Then they may be taken out and wicked on a mat.

If you grow for show, you will probably be able to tell soon if the foliage is acceptable or not. My first culling out is always for poor foliage. The real fun begins when they start to bloom. Some will be "droppers," even though both parents were not. So why do we have the chance of getting "droppers" in every single seed pod? The term "dropper" refers to the fact that some violets drop their flowers within a few days after they open. All of the species plants have "single" blossoms with only two yellow anthers and they all drop their petals.

All of the "Original Ten" were "droppers" as well. The first violet that "sported" with more petals and anthers was 'Blue Boy.' The sport was properly named 'Double Blue Boy'. Most violets with extra petals and more than two anthers do not drop their petals. Violets that appear to be "single" but have more than two anthers usually do not drop. Sometimes they are called "stick tights." They are actually semi-doubles, no matter the number of petals they possess. Since "droppers" are the ancestors of all African violets, they are carried "recessively" in the genetic code.

It is very difficult now, to get blooms that are

"new and different." We have so many different colors and shapes. However, such things as more blooms on a stem; larger, more vibrant blooms, or blooms that last longer are all improvements to look for.

If there are some that appear to have promise, you must grow them through at least three generations in order to register them with AVSA. Three generations sounds like a very long time, but there is a way to do it more quickly: *Take off two of the bottom leaves and plant them in the pot beside the plant. They will root very quickly and you will have the second generation on its way. When plants from those leaves are large enough to pot up - do the same thing again. The babies from those leaves will be the third generation. This is the "mother hen" effect - leaves planted in this way make babies in record time.*

The form for registering African violets must be on acid free paper and must be accurate. For this reason, you should keep a notebook with all of the details of your work. I think everyone should make at least one seedpod - they are the most fun!

From: *The Violet Connection*,
Official Publication of the Ohio State AVS

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Dianna Walston • 2210 S. Courtland Ave., Kokomo, IN 46902

Donations received September 1, 2017 - October 31, 2017 • **Donations Total: \$332.00**



Geneva - \$50-\$599

Mary Kealy-Falk, Hopkins, MN
North Star AV Council
Penny Wichman, Petersburg, KY
Ohio State AVS



Two-Tone - \$25-\$49

Norma Bates, Lake Forest, CA
Alice Peterson, Waunakee, WI
Crosstown, AVC



Thumbprint - Under \$25

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Sandra Skalski, Mullica Hill, NJ

2017 Convention Designs

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Chiquita
Betty Ferguson



Darkening Skies
Violet Hendershot



Flamingo Pizzazz
Irene Harney



Tutti Frutti
Rebecca McMeel



Jamaica Jammin
Mary Lou Harden



*Fun in the
Tropical Sun*
Mel Grice



Tropical Happy Hour
Linda Hall



*Sittin' on the
Dock of the Bay*
Elvie Blakely

Growing for Green

By Dr. Minh Bui

When people think of African violets, the first thing that comes to mind are the floriferous, colorful and sometimes exotic blooms that snatches the eyes' attention. For decades, many hybridizers are striving for the one violet that produces fantasy flecks, the deep maroon or nearly black purple pansy, and the gargantuan double decker blooms. First Class, our go-to software with image contributions from expert AV growers has a multitude of floral displays that often leaves one wanting to add 'just ONE more' to their fabulous collection.

Though magnificent floral displays introduced me to my AV addiction, it's the greenery that has kept me enthusiastic. Let's not forget that flowers are modified leaves -when the leaves are gorgeous, this often translates to a beautiful bouquet on the same plant. A few of us greatly appreciate the new variety of AV leaves that have been introduced in recent decades, providing us leaf lovers a wider selection. There are leaves with the picotee white edge, the deep green with the maroon undersides, the undulated, scalloped, serrated, and variegated forms.

While others may look first at the flowers, I first assess the leaves 'CUSTOM' attributes -coloration, uniformity, symmetry, texture, overall appearance, and maturity. Coloration factors in the leaves solid or variegated colors. If the plant is described as being variegated, I would expect a certain amount of variegation achieved. Uniformity suggests lack of blemishes and deviation from the plant's norm, so if a leaf is solid, deep green with a maroon

reverse, I would expect the same in all the leaves. We all know, want, and strive for leaf symmetry. Texture pertains to the exciting, but often overlooked leaf structure. Leaves can be standard, quilted, wavy, and/or cupped, all lending additional fascination to the plant. Overall appearance is especially important when looking to the shape that the leaves lend, and how it can showcase the flowers in a more flattering backdrop. Finally, maturity of the leaves is an important factor when assessing the plant's show quality. There are certain expectations for different types of AVs that must be met prior to show, and that can often mean the number or size of the leaves. For a standard AV, one will not show a plant which only has nine leaves -although it may have a small bouquet in the center. It simply is not mature enough.

One can say I have high expectations when it comes to AV leaves, and leave it to a leaf lover who is in search of the next AV to wow us with its leaves. In the previous issue of African Violet Magazine, Pat Hancock's article titled 'The Propagation of Fantasies' pointed out



that fantasy AVs are similar to chimeras, in that they rarely propagate true from parent leaf cuttings. I must agree with Pat on this. In one of my recent experiments, I took a leaf cutting from 'Ma's Paris Affair', an AV with double pink pansies interrupted with subtle white fantasy flecks. What resulted was a trio of strong plants, grown side by side, one which resembles the parent, one with significantly more variegation and smaller mature leaves, and one with a tremendous amount of pink variegation. Personally, I am more fascinated with

whether this characteristic is stable after several generations. One can say I am more intrigued with the pink 'green' leaves than I am with the pink flowers. If there are other leaf lovers out there, I

suggest having a little fun with your variegated fantasies and try your hand at sporting or hybridizing an AV that can wow the leaf and/or flower lovers in all of us.

AVSA DONATION FUND LEVELS



Thumbprint (Under \$25)



Geneva (\$100-\$499)



Two-Tone (\$25-\$49)



Fantasy (\$500-\$999)



Multicolor (\$50-\$99)



Chimera (Over-\$1000)

AVSA History - and Those Back Issues

By Richard Nicholas - AVSA President

Have you ever wondered what Volume 1 Number 1 looked like? What show winning plants look like in the 1950's? Or maybe you want to research the latest in soil mixtures?

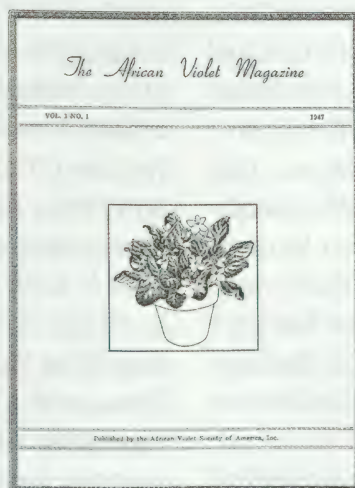
AVSA has received more and more requests for access to back issues. While we have some issues in stock, that has not been the answer. Now there is new news to report.

AVSA has entered into a partnership with the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL). The BHL is a grant-funded organization whose primary partners are Harvard University, the Smithsonian museums, and the New York Botanical Gardens. Partnerships include a wide variety of universities, libraries, and horticultural organizations. As part of this

agreement, the BHL will digitize all back issues of our AVM at no cost to AVSA. The project is underway, beginning with Volume 1 and continuing through the issues of 2014. Each year will then be added as a new year is completed, leaving the most recent three years only available in hard copy.

When the scanning is complete, all the back issues will be available electronically to our membership through a link on our website. Back issues can be searched or downloaded as a pdf. Other institutions involved as partners will then also have access to the AVM back issues for research purposes.

This effort should provide a valuable new service for AVSA members. As the project continues, more information will be provided.



A Convention to Remember: Part 2

By Kurt Jablonski

Apart from the show room and the programs, the main draw to a convention is the commercial sales room. This is violet paradise. All of your favorite hybridizers and commercial vendors are in the same room. You can bounce back and forth and jump around as many times as you like. It makes us all feel like kids in a candy shop again. This year was no exception and there was no lack of new and exciting violets to buy. The commercial vendors at the show were Mrs. Streps Streps, Buckeye Violets, The Violet Gallery, The Peacock Cottage, Hajner's Hybrids, The Violet Barn, Lyndon Lyon's and Bloomin' Jungle. There was a little bit of everything for everybody in that room. I know lots of people that stocked up on must-have varieties and went back for more! A constant quandary at the end of convention is where to fit all your newly acquired treasures. Some people bring an empty suitcase with them just so they can fill it up. It is a once a year opportunity to do your violet shopping at a one stop spot.

After what seemed like forever the showroom opened to convention members Thursday evening after the awards banquet. Hoards of eager attendees darted into the room to see what won and how their plants fared in the competition. Cameras were flashing and lots of congratulations were given to the winners. For those that won it was that satisfaction, gratification and deserved recognition from their peers for all the hard work that had gone into growing showplants. While the show this year was smaller than usual it had a number of very high quality specimens gracing the show tables. I'm sure the final panel had a tough time selecting the winners. This year's Best in Show/Best Trailer was Rob's Boolaroo grown by Kurt Jablonski. Kurt also had the Second Best in Show/Best Standard African Violet with Buckeye Cranberry Sparker. His Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler, Cajun's Coujon and Buckeye Tea Party earned him the Gold Rosette for the Best AVSA Standard Collection.

Belinda Thibodeaux from Louisiana walked off

with the Second Best AVSA Standard Collection with three of her own hybrids, Cajun's Freckle Faced Kid, Cajun's Zydeco and Cajun's Beautiful Oblivion. She also won the Best Amateur New Introduction with Cajun's Swamp Dancer. You can look for that one in the near future. Perennial winner, Anne Nicholas, had several lovely small ones and her Jolly Lulu won Best Miniature. Year after year Anne stuns us with her lovely entries! A first time convention entrant Dmitry Ozherelyev won Third Best in Show/Best Semi with N-Avatar, which flew in his suitcase from Moscow. WOW! It sounds like a story I would love to hear. Also gracing the winner's table was S. 8 clone Cha Simba which won Best Species African Violet and was grown by Carolee Carter of Ocala, Florida. Carolee loves her species and grows them very well. Elmer Godeny's *Primulina bipinnatifida* won Best Other Gesneriad in the show and was exceptionally grown.

Not all the winners were on the head table but were scattered throughout the show. Debbie McInnis from Floyd's Knobs, KY outdid herself again this year entering over forty plants in the show. Among her wins were Second Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection with Optimara Little Blackfoot, Jazz Bouquet and Rob's Suicidal Squirrel. Debbie also had the best Cajun Collection, Best Russian Collection and the Second Best Buckeye Collection. She is a fantastic grower and must be commended for always bringing so many lovely plants year after year. All the way from Ohio, Julie Jones walked off with the Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection with Jolly Orchid, Little Blue Bandit and Persian Prince. I would be remiss if I didn't mention Penny Smith-Kerker as well because she won Horticulture Sweepstakes with 42 Blue Ribbons. That is amazing.

In the Commercial Division Donna Brining from New Jersey sure cleaned up. She won Best in Show with Annabelle, Third Best in Show/Best New Intro with Donna's Miss Miranda as well as Second Best New Introduction with Donna's

Avalanche. Jo Schrimsher won Second Best in Show Commercial with Saintpaulia rupicola. Our expert designers are to be commended because the show was filled with their exquisite creations. This year's top winner in design was Susan Anderson with her Interpretive Flower Arrangement "Miami's Parrot Jungle." Florida's own Mary Lou Harden did quite well winning Second and Third Best Designs in the show with her "Natural Garden" and "Dish Garden." The show was a success for all exhibitors and attendees because there was something for everyone to enjoy.

My favorite part as well as for many people is the chance to spend time with our violet family and friends. For so many of us convention is our once a year chance to be in violet heaven. There is nothing truly like spending an entire week with people who love what you love and truly care and understand your passion and commitment to the

hobby. I feel lucky to be a part of this great organization because I know my life would be less full without all the lovely people I have met in this society. It is always too short and you never have enough time.

The convention came to a close with Saturday night's installation of our new officers and an excellent closing dinner. Everyone's week of excitement drew to a close and the hardest part of the week faced us all: saying goodbye. I prefer to think of it not as a goodbye but as a see you later because we always have next year to look forward to and surely it will be here before we know it. I hope to see all of my friends and meet a few new ones next year in Buffalo, New York. Until then I'll be holding onto all my memories of this past convention and I hope that for those of you who missed it this year my recap helped make you feel like you were there.



Gifting Violets to Family and Friends

By Marie Montague

How many times has a friend or family member asked you for one of your violets, and it's just not a good time? Either standards are too large for a novice to grow, or they lack bloom because they've been disbudded in preparation for show. Small standards can take forever to bloom, and people become discouraged. Minis and semi-miniatures, which are known to sucker, turn really nasty looking if not groomed.

Trailers are the perfect solution because they tend to bloom frequently, they don't have to be continually repotted, and suckers are a "wonderful thing." When selling plants, I often recommend trailers for the very young and old because they

are so easy to grow.

Recently, when breaking up a really large trailer, which I had no desire to grow again, I was curious to see exactly how many crowns there were. When I broke the plant apart, there were 36 good-sized crowns (over 27 small crowns were tossed). Rather than potting up each crown for sale, I decided to pot up 6 of the larger crowns in 6 available small pan pots. Each small pan pot was clearly marked "cannot be shown" and will gift without name label to make sure plant cannot be shown.

Viola! Three months later, after a little bloom boosting, there are 6 pots with pretty pink blooms to gift to family and friends.

AVSA Affiliate Update

Jeri Anderson • Affiliate Chair

Email: twajda1@comcast.net

The New Year starts with all sorts of great resolutions. Well, here's a resolution you can make for AVSA – Take a few minutes to check your club information on the AVSA website to ensure that your club information is correct. Go to www.AVSA.org – in the left side listing, click on **Local Clubs** – now click on the **Region** that contains your State or Country – scroll down to your club's information. The past Affiliate Chair, Mel Grice, started the practice of placing the date that club information was updated. If you see that your club information is current but the update is over two years old or there is no update date present, please send an email to me so I can enter in a current update date. If all the information is correct and the update is less than two years past, you're done.

If the information needs to be updated, please take the time to input the update information via the AVSA website. Once you click on **Local Clubs** you will see the area for **Local Club Update**. After you submit your update information it is sent directly to the current affiliate chair. No further email or snail mail required. It's so nice to be able to input your club update information via the AVSA website.

You may also enter your show and sale event information. For Event information you click on **Events** and the **Add Event** area is displayed. The information is sent directly to the affiliate chair. Now that the fall show and sale season is here lots of clubs are getting their show/sale information input on the AVSA website. Remember to also send event information to the AVM Editor to have it listed in the magazine.

Business owners know how important it is to let everybody know their company name, location, phone number, hours of business, and to have a website with a "contact us" button. No business would wait months or even years to update their information. Treat your local club like a business if you want to attract new members to your meetings and shows. If your local club information is not up to date, new people will not be able to find it.

Most of you already know the good news about the new club "Glitter Gulch African Violet Growers" in Nevada. Congratulations to Richard Craft and Joyce Stork for getting it started!

There are four more people working to start a club:

John Geiser: Grand Rapids, MI

Email: johnrgeiser@gmail.com

Mary Ann McNeill: Washington, NC

Email: mcneill70@suddenlink.net

Sheila Black: Roanoke, VA

Email: sheilarblack@cox.net

Jennie Lawrence: Laramie, WY

Email: missjeannae@yahoo.com

Hopefully, someone will know someone who might be interested in joining a club in one of these areas. If you are trying to start a new club in your area, please contact the Affiliate Chair for help.

May 2018 be the year that all of your club members join AVSA. Hummmm....sounds like another resolution.





Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Optimara Rose Quartz

Exhibited by: Kathy Lahti

Hybridized by: Holtkamp

Miniature

LED Grow Lights have now Excelled Fluorescent Lamps

By Neil Lipson

I have been waiting for years and finally LED Grow Lights are now as good or better than fluorescent lamps. Yes, there are limitations and differences which I wrote about in an article earlier this year, but things have changed. Now, numerous growers are winning Best-In-Show awards with them! Here's how they've improved and how they will affect your violets:

1. They use about half the electricity of even the best fluorescent lamps and don't need a ballast.
2. They do not fade nearly as much over time, and in many cases they will last longer than fluorescent lamps. Most LEDs will last up to 50,000 hours which is more than 13 years at 10 hours/day. When lamps fade, it is called Lamp Lumen Depreciation (LLD) and is expressed as a percentage. Fluorescent lamps will last about 36,000 hours.
3. The only drawback is that viewing the plants under these lamps are complicating some aspects of grooming and some people object to the color they emit, as it gives an entirely different hue to the growing area, as you will see below. However, most of these growers use an OTT lamp to check for color, etc.

Up until the last year, I really didn't hear of Best-In-Show winners from LEDs. Recently, I heard of at least two or three, so this is a clear indication that they're improving, or at the very least that the growers are learning how to use them.

Sharon Gartner won Best-In-Show at the Florida Council Show this October using The Thinklux LED Grow T8 lamps. These lamps are available from Amazon and the company website is: <https://www.earthled.com/collections/thinkluxe-led-lighting>

Here is Sharon with her BIS winner Cajun's Blueberry Hill:



The Thinklux lamps are 4 feet and will insert into a modified 4-foot fluorescent fixture that is wired to bypass the ballast and go directly into the 120V input. As I mentioned, viewing the plants under these lamps is challenging.



Now, many of you are wondering if white fluorescent LEDs will work and yes, they will, however the efficiency will drop because of the full spectrum lamps. At this time, the research with white LEDs is sparse, but it would not surprise me to see them used for both growing AND showing in a year or so.

I will be looking for other growers that have started not only using the grow lights but also the white LED fixtures which would be the best of both worlds and will report back with another updated article. If you are using white LEDs for growing and are having great success, I want to hear from you.

I would like to thank Carolee Carter for her help, both technically and proofreading.

Neil Lipson is a full-time computer consultant. He can be reached by emailing him at ndlipson@gmail.com or calling 610-356-6183 after 1 pm Eastern time. He will return your call.

***Primulina
spadiciformis***

Exhibited by: William Price



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



***Rob's
Vanilla
Trail***

Exhibited by:

Bobbi Johannsen

Hybridized by:

R. Robinson

Semiminiature trailer

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

N-Morskoï Priboi

Exhibited by: Dmitry Ozherelyev / Nina Starostenko

Hybridized by: N. Berdnikova

Miniature

A Family Portrait

By Mel Grice

2019 Crosswind Ct. • Englewood, OH

Email: <melsgrice@earthlink.net

Streptocarpus 'Dale's Ring of Fire'

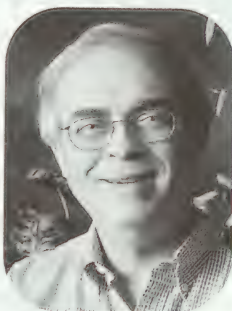
Streptocarpus 'Dale's Ring of Fire' is an example of one of my favorite gesneriads. Bright magenta tubular flowers make a nice contrast with the shiny dark green foliage. Dale Martens from Illinois created this floriferous hybrid. Dale crossed *Streptocarpus* 'Dale's Polar Lava' x *S. dunnii* JT 10303. *Streptocarpus dunnii* is a red, unifoliate (single-leaf) plant from South Africa. Dale grew the parent plant from seeds sent to her by Jaco Truter. It has enormous leaves. She had to cut off about 12 inches from each leaf in order to make room for it on her plant stand! It took two years and three months to bloom! The flowers are reddish-salmon colored.

The spectacular plant shown in the photo was exhibited by Dale Martens at the Gesneriad Society Flower Show this summer (2017). She said "I was thrilled with the blossom count on what I named *Streptocarpus* 'Dale's Ring of Fire'. It only took a year from seed to show plant."

Streptocarpus thrives in conditions that are very similar to African violets. However, there are some differences. *Streptocarpus* needs more light to flower well. Two T-8 tubes or LEDs placed a little bit higher above the plants work well for me. Pale, bleached leaves mean that the plants are probably getting too much light if there is not a nutrition

problem. *Streptocarpus* can tolerate much cooler temperatures than African violets, but they grow and flower best at room temperature. They suffer when temperatures exceed 80°F just like African violets.

Streptocarpus likes to be fed with a commercial



water-soluble fertilizer at the rate of 1/8 tsp. per gallon of water every time you water. I use reverse-osmosis water to avoid the buildup of salts in the potting mix. Many expert growers water their *streptocarpus* plants by hand - making sure to pour off any excess water that remains in the saucer that the plants have

not absorbed. *Streptocarpus* do not grow in swamp-like conditions. They do like to dry out a bit between waterings. *Streptocarpus* may get too dry and wilt a couple of times, but too many instances of leaf collapse will result in damaged leaves.

I travel so much throughout the year that I have to wick-water most of my plants if they are to survive my absences. I use a very open potting mix (Pro-Mix HP) that has a lot of perlite (about 50%) added to it. This allows for a lot of air circulation at the roots. *Streptocarpus* likes to be potted high up in the pot so that the crown of leaves does not sit in

water. Basically, make a "moat" around the crown. Repot your plants often with fresh soil and they will reward you. Unfortunately, I seldom seem to get around to this as often as I should. But when I do, I am rewarded with a wealth of showy blooms.

It was love at first sight for me when I saw the plant exhibited. Dale was kind enough to share a leaf with me and I am

happy to report that I have several young plants coming along. I can't wait to see them bloom in all of their glory. This is one of Dale's many hybrids that need to be distributed widely. I hope to be able to do that soon.



Convention Survival Kit How to Save Leaves and Cuttings to give them A Great Start in Life

Lynda C. Welchel • San Antonio, TX

While at the LSAVC (Texas Lone Star African Violet Convention) Cheryl Prichard, a long time grower of African violets and gesneriads, came up with a novel idea to save newly acquired leaves and cuttings while away from home. Her method was easy and gave the leaves and cuttings a great start in their long journey to a mature plant. Both Cheryl Prichard and I have experienced a high rate of leaf and cutting losses after being out of town at an African violet convention. We were both very tired of this happening, thus the Convention Survival Kit was born. I watched in awe when she took out the Convention Survival Kit in our hotel room. Wow!!!!



Cheryl Prichard's Convention Survival Kit really works as evidenced by my 25+ cuttings and leaves brought from Houston, TX to San Antonio, TX. A month after convention not one leaf or cutting has been lost or damaged using this method.

The idea is to give your plants and cuttings an environment in which they can start growing right away, get proper light, soil mix, and water. Many times cuttings and leaves are harvested 2-3 days prior to convention. By the time you get them home and planted it is very possible that a mini-

num of 5-7 days has already passed. The leaves may have been transported by air from another state or country and have already experienced many different temperature and environmental changes. Leaves and cuttings not planted in this manner are very stressed when they finally reach your home having lived in a plastic bag with possibly a cotton ball wrapped around the stem. Leaves and cuttings unplanted not using this method usually sit and languish in your room on the window sill. Perhaps they find their way to the desktop in a hotel room, or eventually are packed in your suitcase. Attending to this process at convention assures that you will have less work when you arrive home too. All you have to do is put the planted containers on your plant stand or window sill and sit back and rest. You now have a win for you and a win for your plants.

LEAVES AND CUTTING SURVIVAL CONVENTION KIT

- **Bottled water**
(hotel water may be unsuitable (softened, chlorine))
- **Premixed rooting mixture or soil mix**
(sterilized soil mixture containing No Damp Off and sphagnum moss is recommended and available on line)
- **Containers with lids** (two holes in bottom, one for draining and one for wick if desired
Example, container with domed type lid, such as those used for yogurt and cereal on the top (this is your incubator providing an ideal terrarium atmosphere to get the cuttings or plantlet started.)
- **Scalpel**
To cut stems of leaves

- **Labels**

To mark each container

- **Permanent marker**

Very important to have the variety marked correctly

- **Tray or Box**

Used for holding each cup after being planted and for ease of transport.

- **Wicks** – already cut to proper length

When leaves or cuttings are acquired each one is planted in a separate container, a label placed on the container and variety noted with the date. Leaves that are too big are cut straight across and if they are too big, the entire top of the leaf is cut off so the leaf fits comfortably in the container. A small amount of water is placed around the leaf or stem cutting and the tight fitting lid placed on top of the container. You now have a mini terrarium environment. The bathroom light on the sink in the hotel room should be kept off during the day, and on all night (usually about 10-12 hours.)



Place the planted cups as close to the light as possible. Plants in this environment are out of cold drafts or hot dry air. They already have found their first comfortable and ideal home. You may put a wick through the bottom of your container if you wish to do so. Keep an eye on the plants every 12 hours or so to assure they have enough moisture. You should see condensation collecting around the soil on the planted cup and or on the container lid. Your leaves and cuttings are now at leisure and not fighting for survival. Perhaps they are even communicating sending out good growing vibes.

Be sure and check the moisture around stems of plants everyday while at convention. Keep the planting medium damp, but not too wet. Look for condensation on the lids, if you do not have condensation visible on your cups after 6-8 hours add a little more water. Your leaves and cuttings will love you and be happy you selected them to enter your plant collection. When they are mature and at a show they may even brag to other plants at night long after the show room lights are out about how well their were treated as babies.

Listen to your plants and cuttings, they will show you that they are happy by remaining turgid and upright. The care that these baby plants get from conception to birth will reflect their happiness and reward you with healthy and happy plants – possibly even a best of show!

Assure that you are not reported to PPS (Plant Protection Services) LOL 😊

Try this Convention Survival Kit next time you attend a violet convention.

Happy leaves and cuttings = happy and successful growers!



Judging - By the Book

By Pat Hancock

I took my first AVSA judging school in 1992 and passed with a good grade. But I was ill-prepared to judge African violets. Only about 40% of the test was about judging violets, i.e. "When was AVSA founded?", "How to set up and organize a show," "Different types of leaves and flowers, etc." Very little about *point scoring* or *how to judge African violets*. When I became a Senior Judge and had to look up pages in the Judges handbook, I finally became a better African violet judge.

When I became a teacher, I vowed to concentrate only on the judging section of the Judges handbook, hoping to help judges to do a better job and feel more secure in their decisions. Here are only a few of the many judging situations that I have observed over the years; the answers are all in the book!

- I. A smooth running show is dependent upon a well-written show schedule. The schedule is the "law of the show," except when it is in conflict with AVSA rules.
 - A. Page 90 states that a winning plant should receive all the awards that it deserves.
Example: Picasso - Best in Show, Best Standard, Best variegated, Best Vintage, etc.
 - B. A schedule or a list of awards that states that "The Best Vintage," must come from the Vintage class" is in direct conflict with this AVSA rule. Picasso is often found in the Collection class.
- II. A judge says: "How many red and how many blues have we given?"
 - A. *This question should never be asked.*
Each plant should stand on its own merits.
 - B. This question could be a reflection of a judge thinking about the SSA Award.
 - C. The SSA Award score should fall where it may, when judges judge each plant honestly, and by the book.
 - D. When judges use the SSA Award as a reason for giving *undeserved blue ribbons* its purpose is negated.

III. A final panel judge says: "I disagree with the numbers that the 'collection' judges gave - 99 points to the top semimini and 97 points to the top standard. It takes much longer to grow a standard. Let's change the numbers and make the standard Best in Show."

A. Page 90 states: one panel should never 'rejudge' another panel's work.

B. There are no points in the book for the length of time it takes to grow a plant.

IV. A final panel judge says: "We have three plants that scored 97 points - shall we vote on which one we like best?"

A. Page 90 states: When two or more plants score the same you may review to see if you can add or deduct a point from either so as to avoid a tie.

B. If judges would remember to use points when judging, it might help to avoid this situation. Examples of point deductions:

1. Hair on leaf
2. Tip of blossom starting to fade
3. Water or fertilizer spot
4. Nick out of a leaf
5. Leaf not centered between the leaves below it

C. Page 90 states that awards should be given to the highest scoring plants in the show. (Tip - *supplying small point scoring sheets to the judges could help to avoid voting.*) Voting is never to be considered. *This is probably the AVSA rule that is most often broken.* Show rules should state that all plants must be point scored and placed accordingly.

V. A judge says "Does the best semiminiature have to come from the collection class?"

Page 90 states that you must check the scores from the collection class to determine the highest scoring semiminiature for a base. Then check BIC winners to see if any will score higher. If a new introduction or an unusual container is considered - they must

be judged again using the regular class scale of points. The highest scoring semiminiature is the best semiminiature.

VI. A judge says: "I think its a blue in spite of the fact there are only four blooms - they are large and the foliage is almost perfect."

A. Page 53 states only open, fresh, blossoms are to be considered - 20-25 blossoms is average on a mature plant. A small 9"-10" standard should have 10-15 blooms to receive the full count.

B. The size of the plant, or the amount of foliage, should be considered on very large plants. The number of blossoms should be in proportion to the size of the plant.

1. 3/4 enough bloom - deduct 6+ points

2. 2/3 enough bloom - deduct 8+ points

3. enough bloom - deduct 12 points

C. You should never need to count blooms. They should cover an appropriate amount of the foliage.

D. There are no extra points for more than adequate bloom.

VII. A judge says "What an interesting plant - the blooms are all different. Some are white and some have varying amounts of purple fantasy. The description says "variable" so we shouldn't deduct points."

A. *This could not be more wrong.* "Variable" refers to plants of the same variety that bloom slightly differently due to heat versus cold, time of the year, or just the mind of the plant.

Example: *Ness' Crinkle Blue* - Blossom - Double dark blue star/variable thin white edge. Foliage - Dark green, quilted, serrated/red back.

B. Page 39 states: *A blossom described as blue/variable white edge would be entered in the edged class if it shows the white edge or in the blue class if not.* If "variable" is not in the description - the blue flowering plants could not be entered.

C. Page 53 states that blooms of the wrong color or hue - deduct a point, each up to 10 points.

D. A plant with blooms of different hues could lose up to 10 points regardless of the word "variable" being in the description. All blooms on any individual plant must be the same color or hue.

VIII. A judge says "I just hate to give red or white ribbons: I just don't want to discourage anyone."

A. Page 49 states that plants are to be judged by the merit system.

B. "Merit" means each plant is given the ribbon that it merits.

C. Give a blue ribbon to an undeserving plant and it will be back again next year in the same condition.

D. Give blue ribbons to undeserving plants and your show will deteriorate each year.

E. Use the SSA award as an excuse for giving undeserving blue ribbons and the SSA award means nothing.

F. Judge the plants honestly and by the book and your show will improve each year.

G. A red ribbon should be a teaching experience.

Example: on card you could say - Thanks for entering the show - minus 2 points neck; minus 8 points for small leaves; minus 2 points for dirt on leaves. Please keep trying.

IX. A judge says: "This is a wonderful show - look at all the huge violets."

A. There are no extra points for big anywhere in the book.

B. Oversized plants require an almost impossible amount of bloom in order to be proportional.

C. Plants only bloom from the top three rows of leaves.

D. Variegated plants lack chlorophyll and always bloom less than solid green plants. It is almost impossible to have enough bloom on a variegated plant that is over 18".

E. Page 52 states that leaves of the plant should form a rosette. The foliage should grow straight out from the center of the plant to the edge of the outer leaves.

- F. Extra rows of leaves are heavy and often fall down around the pot, touching the table - not a pretty sight.
- G. Leaves that fall down and touch the table should lose points under condition.
Examples:
1. Weak petioles due to poor culture
 2. Planted too high in the pot
 3. At some time wilted and never recovered
 4. Too many heavy rows of leaves that should have been removed
 5. Neck
 6. Crown or root rot
- H. A medium standard should have 25 blooms; a 20" standard should have 40 or more.
- X.** A judge says "The description of this plant says it is a semidouble - it is not. It doesn't have any extra petals. I think it is a single. We should call classification. It is the wrong plant."
- A. Semidouble blooms need not have extra petals - only extra anthers. Page 14 states that semidoubles may appear to be single.
- B. Single blossoms have only two anthers.
- XI.** A judge says: "I know we are supposed to look for beauty - but I can't score this plant more than 89."
- A. Looking for beauty means you should always endeavor to give a plant all that it deserves.
- B. Page 52 states that all deductions are up to one point or three points. This gives judges some leeway.
- C. Never give a plant a score of 89 or 89. By using the up to, you can make it a score of 90 points.
- XII.** A judge says: "The blooms on this plant are so fancy. I like it best. Which one do you like best?"
- A. The word like should not be in a judge's vocabulary.
- B. Fancy leaves or fancy blossoms have nothing to do with judging plants except in the "new introduction" classes.
- C. A solid green plant with plain purple blossoms should be BIS if it has the highest score using the appropriate scale of points.
- D. Personal likes or dislikes are not in the book.
- E. We have a scale of points for every category in the show.
- XIII.** A judge says to a person entering a solid blue sport of a fantasy plant - "Just give it a name - it will lose points in the sport class."
- A. Page 43 states that all plants to be entered must be correctly named.
- B. Page 58 states that all sports or mutants must be entered in the new cultivar (sport) class.
- C. Judges should never encourage exhibitors to "just put a name on it for the sake of another entry."
- D. Page 39 states that the classification committee is responsible for verifying all entries and should discourage the entry of plants with questionable names or origin.
- XIV.** A judge says: "We chose the BIS from that collection class - now we need to look at the other classes for 2nd BIS."
- Page 90 states that it is possible that any one class could have more than one top quality plant.
- B. Always look at the other plants in the BIS class - second best could come from the same class.
- C. It is even conceivable that first, second, and third BIS could come from the same class.
- D. Could be from any class - not just collection classes since not all good plants are registered and they cannot be entered in collection classes.
- Judges need to have a thorough knowledge of many varieties of African violets - for this reason student and advanced judges should grow at least 25 different varieties of which 15 must be registered.
- Senior judges should grow at least 50 varieties of which 25 must be registered. Judges should always keep informed of new rules pertaining to shows found in the judges column of the AVM.
- Judges should always continue to study even after they have become master judges. Clubs need to be teaching and sharing.
- Improvement of our shows depends on members helping each other and sharing their knowledge with new members.

Spring Peach

Exhibited by:
Penny Smith-Kerker
Hybridized by:
H. Pittman
Miniature



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Windsome

Exhibited by: Kathy Lahti
Hybridized by: H. Pittman
Miniature

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Second Vice President's Committees

Standing Committees

Commercial

Lynn Lombard, Chair – lynn_lombard@att.net

The Commercial Committee is responsible for issues related to commercial members of AVSA, especially managing the activities of the commercial show and sales activities during the annual AVSA convention. This committee prepares the commercial division of the show schedule; invites commercial members to enter displays, show-cases, and new introduction specimens; and presents the commercial awards at the annual banquet. The committee also handles the commercial sales room by inviting commercial members to sell their plants and products, handling reservations and rental of equipment, and distributing tax forms.

Convention Show Awards

Debbie McInnis, Chair – dkmcinnis@twc.com

The Convention Show Awards committee handles the show awards for the amateur division of the annual AVSA convention show. This committee solicits for show award donations throughout the year, keeping careful record of donors, funds received, and award recipients. Summary report of awards donations and/or award recipients are recorded by this committee and published within the AVM, AVSA website, and convention manual. This committee works closely with the Convention Chair, Shows and Judges Committee, Internet Committee, and AVM Editor.

Library

Penny Smith-Kerker, Chair
psmithkerker@gmail.com

The AVSA Library, which is housed at the AVSA office in Beaumont, Texas, consists of a wide variety of materials, offered for rental to AVSA affiliate clubs and members. The Library Committee supervises the maintenance of the library and is often working on new projects, creating and developing new programs of educational interest. This group is interested in knowing

what AVSA members desire for future programs and materials.

Society Awards

Susan Hill, Chair – skhill@ruraltel.net

AVSA members that go "above and beyond" for the benefit of the society may be recognized with an AVSA Society Award. Society awards are given to members that demonstrate outstanding service, leadership, scientific or horticultural contributions. This committee is responsible for collecting nominations, including the name and list of accomplishments of possible nominees, and determining the award recipients. Honorees are presented their society awards during the annual AVSA convention.

Shows and Judges

Bill Foster, Chair – 1bpfooster@sbcglobal.net

The Shows and Judges Committee handles almost everything regarding AVSA judged shows. Not only does this committee ensure the annual convention show runs smoothly, they assist with monitoring local affiliate shows as well. This committee is responsible for ensuring AVSA judges and teachers are well prepared by providing affiliate and convention judging schools, administering exams, and maintaining records on all AVSA judges. For the annual convention show, this committee writes the horticulture show schedule; assists with classification, entries, and placement; selects and instructs judges and clerks for both the amateur and commercial divisions; and assists the Awards Chair in compiling the list of all award winners after the judging is complete.

Special Committees

Handbook

Bill Foster, Chair – 1bpfooster@sbcglobal.net

This committee is responsible for maintaining, proofreading, and approving the *Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges*, as the official manual for all AVSA affiliate and convention shows.

Wicks & Wicking Action

By George B. Starr

This is one view of the use of wicks for growing African violets. There are conflicting views and certainly each viewpoint has merit. It has been found that synthetic fibers, e.g., acrylic, nylon or polyester, work best because unlike natural fibers such as cotton they do not rot or promote fungi growth. We use #3-1/2 braided Nylon cord with an untwisted center. We usually have about 4000 plants at a given time.

Extensive testing on wicks and wicking action have shown some surprising results. A test, using 12 sizes of wicks from a small thread to macrame cord about 1/4" in diameter, showed unexpected answers to some questions. Twelve violets (same variety, same size, same size pot with the same soil) were used to test the 12 sizes of wicks. The wicks were pulled up into the soil the same distance. Additional tests were made with the wicks in the pot in various places and configurations and it made very little difference in the overall growth and health of the violets.

There were small differences in the uniformity of moisture, especially in larger pots such as bulb pans where two wicks produced more uniform moisture in the soil. The pots were set on a grid with all 12 pots the same distance from the bottom of the pot to the water surface. (Another test showed that, with our nylon wicks, the maximum distance water would travel up the wick was about 4".)

There did not appear to be any wick too big. These and subsequent tests showed that the wick, regardless of size, would carry only as much water up to the soil as the soil would accept. Once the soil has taken up all the water it will hold, no more water will be transferred from the wick. This appears to mean that the key factor is: "how much water will the soil hold?" A wick too small would not carry up enough water for a large plant, or for a plant in air conditioning or any situation where evaporation or use of water exceeded the amount of water- the wick could transport.

The wicks failed when the soil got too wet or too dry. Perhaps an ideal situation would be 1/3 soil, 1/3 water, and 1/3 air. The soil and the plant will get too wet when:

- 1) The soil holds too much water when the soil composition is too heavy. (The addition of perlite or

something similar will help keep the soil "light" and help prevent packing.)

- 2) The soil has been pressed too tightly.
- 3) The plant has not been repotted often enough. When the violet is not repotted often enough, at least 3 adverse conditions will occur. First, the pH drops. With our soil, our water, and our growing conditions, the soil starts with a pH of about 6.8. After about 6 months it drops to about 4.2. A low pH deters proper uptake of nutrients needed by the plant and it also speeds up deterioration of some of the soil components. Breakdown of the soil will help it hold too much water and
- 4) As the roots grow they take up space and begin to help fill the pot and they pack the soil so it will hold too much water.

The soil will get too dry when:

- 1) The wick is too small for the conditions or
- 2) When the water supply is cut off and the wick and/or the soil have become completely dry (gradually rewetting the soil and the wick will restart the wicking action) or
- 3) The soil has dried enough for it to pull away from the inside of the pot leaving a space between the soil and the inside of the pot, allowing additional drying, or
- 4) The wick has become plugged-up with algae or minerals from the fertilizer or hard water. Algae grow where the water or wet surfaces are exposed to sufficient light. The Starrlight African Violet Lamp and the ShoGro African Violet Pot have mat watering systems where no light reaches the water. We also make a reservoir using a quart sherbet container, painting the outside with an opaque paint and a using a mat for watering the violet. When we use mats, we insert the wick up into the soil through two holes in the plastic pot, leaving the wick across the bottom of the pot to assure good contact between the mat and the soil.

The bottom line is that wick watering is one of the easiest ways to grow violets but it is not a magic elixir to cure all ills; TLC is still needed to grow pretty violets.

From "The Dixie News"

Are Your Crowns Rotted?

By Pat Hancock

Recently I went to Berea Kentucky to the Appalachian Craft Festival. It is an outdoor festival featuring Appalachian crafts. One booth had beautiful clay pots with African violets setting in them. My cousin was interested in purchasing one for the new violet I had just given her. Since it was growing on a wick, she was asking me how deep a pot she should get in order to hide the water well. The lady who made the pots joined the conversation, as she did not know about wicks. Just then a passerby said "Excuse me, but I was eavesdropping on your conversation and I wondered if I could ask you about my African violet?" She said she had had this violet for about three years, never had repotted it and always bottom watered it. I asked how long she lets it stay in the water and of course she said until the water is gone. She described a plant with leaves wilted down around the pot but with wet soil. Of course, I immediately suspected root and/or crown rot.

Another lady called me a month or so back and stated that she had grown beautiful violets but for some unknown reason lately her violets had all wilted down and looked very sick. She did not know what the problem was. She suspected some disease. After many questions, I learned that a few months before she had bought all new ceramic self-watering pots and transplanted all of her violets from their plain plastic pots into the beautiful new pots. I told her to feel the top of the soil for moisture and sure enough the soil was soaking wet. She had root and/or crown rot.

The symptoms of root and/or crown rot are almost always the same - wilted leaves on a plant that has been watered recently. These symptoms may be caused by soil mealy bugs, but more often they are caused by the water mold groups (pythium and phytophthora) that cause root and/or crown rot. As with almost all violet related problems, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Greenhouses have a far bigger and more complex problem than people who grow under lights, due to the excessive humidity and dampness that is a fact of life in a greenhouse. A good friend who grows in a greenhouse recently called to thank me for telling him about a new soil that contains a fungicide. He said he

had tried everything and nothing seemed to help. He would lose 50% of his starter plants to some type of fungus. I suggested he try the soil I use - Pro-Mix BX with fungicide. He reported that now he is hardly losing any plants at all and was very happy with the new soil. This soil works very well for the indoor gardener, whether you grow under lights or in windowsills with natural light.

Root and/or crown rot are caused by one of two reasons. It may be caused by the plant being too wet for a long period of time or it may be caused by letting the plant go completely dry and then suddenly giving it too much water. When a plant has been completely dry for a time, the tender roots dry out and are no longer able to take up water. Thus they sit there in the water and rot.

The rot travels up the roots until it reaches the crown and the plant dies. A better way to handle a very dry plant is to gradually add a couple of table-spoons of water every other day until the dry roots can re-establish themselves and become hydrated again. If the plant does not respond to this "babying," it is best to knock it out of the pot and check the roots. They should be removed if they are black. If the crown feels mushy to the touch, you must cut higher and higher until the stalk feels solid and when cut off looks green in the middle with a dark reddish line around the outside. You may then paint the stump with Clonex® (a rooting hormone plus fungicide) and pot it up in new soil mixed with about 1/3 coarse vermiculite. Moisten the media but don't make it wet. Cover with a clear plastic bag or place it in a covered container so that it will have higher humidity. In about three or four weeks, it should be thriving again and you can remove the cover and put it back on a wick or whatever watering method you prefer.

Root and/or crown rot is more prevalent during the hot months of summer, so watch your plants closely, don't overwater, and take steps before it is too late.

From *The Violet Connection*, Official Publication of the Ohio State African Violet Society, Inc.



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Rob's Itchy Britches

Exhibited by: Angela Newell

Hybridized by: R. Robinson

Miniature

Are You Starving Your African Violets?

By Nancy Robitaille

African violets can survive very tough situations. Rooms that are too cold or too hot, insufficient light and even very little food. But for plants that are healthy and vigorous the following things are necessary - and in the correct forms.

If you are using only one type of fertilizer for extremely long periods, you may be starving your plants.

PRIMARY NUTRIENTS:

All fertilizers carry three numbers on their packaging. These are the PRIMARY NUTRIENTS, those that will carry the plant to its ultimate. These primary nutrients are Nitrogen for green foliage, Phosphorus for healthy roots and bud count and Potassium for the general health of the plants.

SECONDARY NUTRIENTS:

Each fertilizer container will have some of the SECONDARY NUTRIENTS, which are very important to the development of your plant, as well. Different fertilizers hold varying amounts of secondary nutrients and trace elements. Secondary Nutrients are Calcium, Magnesium, and Sulfur.

CALCIUM: (Ca) - Calcium cements the plant's cells to one another. Roots must have a good supply of calcium. Calcium neutralizes organic acids in plants and protects plants by acting as a buffer against stress caused by soil toxicity or extremes of acidity or alkalinity. Calcium also makes nutrients available to the plant for higher energy. Calcium influences intake of other plant food.

Calcium materials are:

1. Limestone
2. Caustic lime
3. Oyster shells, ground finely.

Deficiency symptoms are:

1. Leaf tips curl backward

2. Buds are small, shrivel and die
3. Tips of leaves brown and curl
4. Roots turn dark and die.

MAGNESIUM: (Mo) - Magnesium can also be obtained by using Epsom salts. Magnesium is the center core of the chlorophyll molecule in plant tissue. When deficient in magnesium, a shortage of chlorophyll results and plants becoming stunted and are poor in health.

SULFUR: (S) - Sulfur releases larger amounts of energy to the plant. It also ensures maximum seed development.

Sulfur gives increased root growth. It helps maintain dark green color and encourages vigorous plant growth.

Sulfur corrects the alkalinity of soil. Sulfur is washed down from the atmosphere and large amounts of this element are furnished by humus and other organic matter in soil.

TRACE NUTRIENTS:

Other elements of fertilizers are TRACE NUTRIENTS, which include:

IRON: (Fe) - Even though iron is often found in large quantities in most soil mixtures, the form that it takes does not allow plant roots to use it. This plant food works closely in association with nitrogen and sulfur and helps it to form chlorophyll molecules.

Iron is available as Ferric Sulphate and Iron chelate.

Iron is used in the correction of iron chlorosis or yellowing of leaves.

Acid loving plants like iron which aids in chlorophyll formation.

Lack of chlorophyll prevents the manufacture of starch needed for energy and growth. Sources of iron: Iron sulfate, which is usually present in all soil, but locked up too high a pH caused by over-liming.

Deficiency in Iron shows up in young plant

growth first. The blade of the leaf turns yellow while the large veins remain green.

BORON: (B) - African violets need only a very small quantity of boron. An ideal amount of boron would be 6-8 parts per million. Boron helps roots in the uptake of water. Boron also assists the plant's defense mechanism prevents a large amount of absorbed water from evaporating and escaping from the plant back into the atmosphere.

Borax was one of the first chemicals to be used as a fertilizer, and is used in very small amounts. If one or two parts per million parts of soil is lacking, there may be deficiency symptoms. Borax in too heavy concentration may be toxic.

Boron affects fifteen functions of plant growth. The source of borax is borate, which is released by the addition of organic matter when it is locked up by improper pH.

Deficiency shows up in form of:

1. Leaf stems being brittle
2. Base of leaf is yellow
3. Centers are small and die
4. Dark spots on tips of young leaves.

MANGANESE: (Mn) - Very small amounts of Manganese will allow it to perform its three functions in a plant. Manganese aids in the formation of the chlorophyll molecule. It makes other plant foods more accessible to the plant and it causes germination to occur more quickly when propagating African violets from seed.

Manganese increases availability of calcium, magnesium and phosphorous. It is vital in chlorophyll formation. If missing, sugar and starch formation is severely checked.

Too much lime is often the cause of shortage of manganese as this element becomes insoluble in alkaline soils.

Deficiency shows the color of foliage altered in some way. You can suspect lack of manganese when the veins of the leaf remain dark green, but spaces between veins turn yellow or brown. The deficiency of manganese is different from that of iron or magnesium in that the yellowing takes place in the center of the leaf.

COPPER: (Cu) Copper's role in plants is played in a way that chlorophyll molecules react when light strikes them. Copper is also an energizer since it

activates enzymes for starting several important plant processes, which produce healthy plants.

Copper is both a poison and a nutrient. It was one of the earlier weed killers in the form of copper sulfate and was not proved to be a nutrient until 1927.

Deficiency shows up in retarded growth. Leaves and stems are flabby. Leaves have a bleached appearance.

ZINC: (Zn) Zinc provides proper growth and function of plants. The lack of this plant food causes yellowing or chlorosis of leaves. Zinc is essential for plant growth and it controls the synthesis of indoleacetic acid, which regulates plant growth.

Zinc is also active in many enzymatic reactions and is necessary for chlorophyll synthesis and carbohydrate formation. Deficiencies first appear on younger leaves.

Plants contain and need as little as one part per million parts of soil.

This is a growth regulator and important in the production of protein.

Source of zinc is zinc sulfate.

A deficiency is detected by leaves twisting and growing crooked. Color is blotchy. Deficiency is least where organic matter is in abundance. If zinc is lacking the plant will rob older foliage. When enough has been taken, a near normal plant will set on stunted growth.

MOLYBDENUM: (Mo) Like Zinc, an activating compound which causes certain plant growing processes to occur. Molybdenum is from a Greek word "molybdos" meaning lead.

Molybdenum is a trace element for virtually all life forms. It functions as a co-factor for a number of enzymes that catalyze important chemical transformations in the global carbon, nitrogen and sulfur cycles.

Thus, molybdenum-dependant enzymes are not only required for the health of plants and people, but for the health of its ecosystems as well. The biological form of molybdenum is present in almost all molybdenum-containing enzymes and an organic molecule known as the molybdenum co-factor.

Molybdenum is a metallic substance and helps bacteria get nitrogen from the air. As a source it is

released by adding lime. It is needed in barely detectable amounts, one part of one million parts of soil, but the lack of this tiny particle is critical. The amount of molybdenum in soil is always small and appears when pH is below 5.2

Deficiency would be detected by the same symptoms as lack of nitrogen.

WATER: Water is two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen. Water is a basic food and essential to life of all living things.

CARBON: Carbon in soil contains about six or seven times as much carbon dioxide if the soil contains any amount of organic matter. It is slightly poorer in oxygen due to the constant absorption of oxygen by roots leaving carbon dioxide behind.

CHLORINE: (Cl) Its presence is necessary for the growth of plants. Chlorine is required for certain

photochemical reactions in photosynthesis. Chlorine uptake affects the degree of hydration of plant cells and balances the charge of positive ions. Deficiency causes wilt.

These trace elements, along with the three major elements are the fifteen components of fertilizers. When your plant is lacking in any particular element, you now know how to diagnose the problem and what to do about it.

By knowing your fertilizers and what they contain as well as what is in your soil, you are equipped to intelligently feed your plants.

When buying fertilizers, buy nutrients, not only the fertilizer. Study the label and know what is included. Elements other than the top three **nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium**, are very important.

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Grooming Guidelines

By Geraldine Silva

Grooming is a difficult task for beginning growers because they aren't sure of what to do. They find it very hard to remove any leaves. They are afraid of doing something wrong. That's why I decided to write an article to try and help.

Some aspects of grooming are a personal choice. The way I groom may seem drastic to another person. More experienced growers want a plant with NO damaged leaves; others can live with plants that have leaves with some imperfections. It takes time to learn what to do.

For the novice grower, I offer these guidelines, but use your own judgment, and what you are comfortable doing.

Remove:

- Faded or dried blossoms
- Damaged leaves - those with cuts, nicks, tears, spots, cracks, brown tips or chewed leaves (crickets did this to my leaves)
- Immature leaves - these are smaller & have skinnier petioles and may be lighter in color. They are usually under the bottom row of leaves, look weak, less well developed, and usually have more rounded leaves.
- Old leaves that are paler in color and any that are yellow
- Twisted or over-lapped or deformed leaves
- Dried bloom stalks
- Seed pods - sometimes a blossom will make a seed pod. Remove it unless you want to save the seeds.
- Dust, soil particles or pet hair-These block out light and air.

- Suckers - this is a small plant that grows on a mature violet, usually at the base of a plant, or between leaves. If you want another plant, leave it on, otherwise, remove it, or it will distort surrounding leaves. You will definitely want to keep it, if the plant is a chimera!! (A special violet)

- Petiole stubs - this is the part of the bloom stalk that may be left behind after all blooms are dead.

- Extra leaves - any leaf that destroys symmetry

- Leaf stubs - any stub that is left after a leaf is removed.

Don't be afraid to groom. You must do what is best for your plants. In the long run, they will grow better and look better. You will gradually feel more confident and comfortable in grooming. Violets are hardier than we think. If you accidentally take off a leaf you didn't intend to, the plant will live and thrive despite your mistake. Other leaves will "fill in" eventually.

There are many benefits to grooming. It helps violets grow more vigorously, be more pleasing to look at, more symmetrical, healthier, and they will probably bloom better.

Try to groom at least every other week. Like most new skills, grooming takes practice, patience and concentration. You CAN do this!!

Note: I have read many articles on grooming and have added my own experiences onto what I have learned from other African Violet magazine articles. Hopefully, I won't hurt anyone's feelings, if I paraphrased some of your ideas about grooming. After all, it's to help our beginners.



African Violets Blossoms from Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses

Photos by: Paul Sorano



Brother's Bond



Carnival Confetti



Free Falling



Girls Night Out



High Expectations



Key Lime Treat



Rolling Dew Drops



Summer Love



Surf's Up



Winter's Finale

Time to Apply for the AVSA College Scholarship

By Charles Ramser

For over 15 years, The African Violet Society of America (AVSA) has offered a college scholarship program for students - undergraduate and graduate - who are studying ornamental horticulture, floriculture, plant genetics, botany, or an equivalent program in an accredited college or university. The award is funded through The AVSA Boyce Edens Research Fund. Dependent upon fund availability at award time, one or possibly two students are selected annually. The award is generally offered for one academic year - two long semesters - at a time. Awardees may apply in successive years but will be in competition with new applicants.

Prior to application, students normally must have completed a minimum of 24 semester or quarter hour credits, while maintaining at least a "B" average. Awards are based upon "merit."

The application form is available on line at www.avsa.org or from student request through the AVSA office. The completed form shall be submitted via standard mail, along with an *official* tran-

script and two professor recommendations, to the Scholarship Selection Committee by March 1, 2018 for the 2018-2019 academic school year.

AVSA remains dedicated to the recognition and advancement of horticultural and related study at the college level.

Here are a few quotes from a recent recipient:
"I'm writing to you once again to thank you for the Boyce Eden College scholarship from the African Violet Society of America...My research will be published in the University of Florida's Journal of Undergraduate research....I'm currently preparing for graduate school...hoping to attain my Master's degree in plant pathology...It means so much to me that the Society believes in me..."

Send application to:

Charles Ramser

2413 Martin St.

Wichita Falls, TX 76308

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Return by March 1, 2018 Application Date _____ Expected Graduation Date _____

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Last

First

Middle

Social Security Number

Address while student _____ Phone _____

Permanent Address (if different) _____

Desired Degree _____ Major _____ Minor _____

Total semester/quarter hours completed at current school as of December, 2017 _____ GPA _____

Total semester/quarter hours completed at all colleges attended as of December, 2017 _____

PLEASE ENCLOSE ONE COPY OF YOUR OFFICIAL COLLEGE TRANSCRIPT WITH THIS APPLICATION.

Cumulative GPA as of December 31, 2017 _____ (Indicate if different from 4 point system)

Other schools attended:

High School _____ Date graduated _____ GPA _____

Colleges _____ GPA _____

_____ If applicable: Date graduated _____ GPA _____

COMPLETE OTHER SIDE

List Awards and Honors you have received in college: _____

List Organizations to which you belong and offices you hold (held): _____

This scholarship request applies for: (Fill in blanks with the number of hours you plan to take)

Fall 2018: _____ hrs. Spring 2019: _____ hrs.

Did you have scholarship funding during the past year? _____ If yes, name the scholarships and show amount: _____

In this space, in a succinct paragraph, describe your CAREER PLANS, as you foresee them:

Describe briefly your employment history, whether related to horticulture or not:

Describe why this merit scholarship from AVSA would be uniquely meaningful to you.

Faculty to serve as	<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
References:				
(Select 2)				

Send completed application to: **Dr. Charles Ramser**
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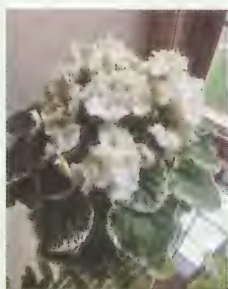


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African Violet

MAGAZINE

March • April 2018

Volume 71

Number 2

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ARTICLES BY MEMBERS, COLUMNISTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Interim Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles and Columnists: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

COMING EVENTS: Send to Interim Editor.

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The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November.

Periodical postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a non-profit organization, at 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 and at additional mailing offices.

Subscription \$35.00 per year which is included in membership dues • Copyright 2017 The African Violet Society of America, Inc. POSTMASTER: Please send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Magazine, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702

African Violet

March • April

Volume 71

Number 2

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To Be Announced, Publication Chairman

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

President's Message

By Richard Nicholas - President

3113 Deerfield Dr. • Denton, TX 76208

Email: randanicho@aol.com

AVSA Friends:

As I write tonight, it is a balmy 52 degrees in north Texas - though we did wear coats for four days or so. The news is a different story for many of our friends around the country. A member from New York told us this week that snow there is measured in feet, not inches! By the time you each read this column, I hope spring is beginning to warm up some areas.

Today I tried to give some violets a bit of TLC - and water. Holidays are hard on the plants, at least around here, with shopping, granddaughters, decorations and more taking priority. Time to think about our spring shows!

2018 promises to be a big year for our AVSA. Of course, we are looking forward to a joint convention and show with our friends and members in Canada. Whether you want to show plants or not, the convention will bring together good friends, great workshops, a big sales room, fun in Buffalo and more!

This year also, society changes are already underway. Our search for a new editor to replace recently - retired Ruth



Rumsey is moving forward. A new description for the editor's job is underway. A new Editorial Board is being appointed to assist the new editor. Our Technology Committee, with David Kesler as chair, will present and demonstrate several new AVSA products, at the Buffalo Show, to better serve AVSA members. We also face some challenges with our Beaumont office building, so we can expect some repairs. Since the hurricane, finding good contractors even to evaluate damages or provide estimates has been very difficult. As I write, an ice storm is even forecast for Beaumont!

As new changes and new challenges approach I still hope to see more members step forward to volunteer and leadership positions. Our members have a lot of talent to offer. A reminder of my approach: When there is a dent in the bucket, you cannot fix it standing on the outside or by beating on the outside - you fix it by getting inside and helping push. There's room in here for more!

Remember, violets connect us!

Richard



African Violet Magazine

EDITOR

Ruth Rumsey our *AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE* Editor retired in December 2017 after working for AVSA and serving as *AVM* Editor for twenty-four years. We extend a hearty "Job Well Done" to Ruth and extend good wishes for a relaxing retirement. Thank you, Ruth for your service to the African Violet Society of America.

The AVSA Executive Committee has appointed an Editor Search Committee with Sue Ramser, First Vice President, Chair, Candace Baldwin, Maureen Pratt, Mel Grice and Randy Deutsch as committee members. President, Richard Nicholas, serves as ex officio member of the committee.

The African Violet Society of America (AVSA), a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation is seeking a detailed, professional production and content editor for its full-color, bimonthly, print publication *African Violet Magazine*. The position is part-time and reports to the AVSA First Vice President.

Job Brief

- We are looking for an Editor, with a good sense of what makes an interesting angle to a story, to juggle the moving parts of publications. The Editor will plan, coordinate, review and edit content, work closely with writers, work with the advertising committee to increase the number of advertisers in the *AVM* and work with the new Editorial Board to publish a magazine our members will find educational and informative. The successful candidate will be able to decide which ideas should be pursued and which should be dropped in order to meet quality and

accuracy standards. The goal is to provide exceptional, informative and engaging content.

The full job description is available on the AVSA Website: avsa.org.

Interested Candidates Should Send the Following:

- Detailed resume and cover letter
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Please send to the address below:

Sue Ramser

AVSA First Vice President
2413 Martin Street

Wichita Falls, TX 76308-1908 or
ramserwf@wf.net

Review of applications begins February 20, 2018. The search will continue until the position is filled.

The new Editor will work with the Advertising Committee to increase the number of advertisers in the *AVM* and also work closely with the newly appointed Editorial Board to produce a magazine that our members will find both entertaining and educational.



Office Update

By Amy Carruth - AVSA Office Manager

2375 North Street • Beaumont, TX 77702

Email: avsae@earthlink.net

We are heading into our busy season and I hope everyone is getting ready for all the fun Show and Sales coming up. We have had some really crazy weather here in Texas. It has already snowed three times, which is something that never happens. Although, my kids and I enjoyed playing it and building snowmen, I am ready for the warmer weather.

This year AVSA and AVSC will host a joint convention in Buffalo, NY. The convention will be held May 20th – June 3rd, 2018 at the Adam's Mark Hotel and Events Center. There are many wonderful presentations and tours planned so get signed up for all! This year we are going to have open seating at all of the meals. For those that will need wheelchair access for any of the tours please let me know.

The Convention Registration and Information is posted on the website at <http://avsae.org/conventions-2018>. If you are unable to print it out from the website, please give me a call at the office (409) 839-4725 and I will be more than happy to mail you the information. **Please get**



your convention registration to the office as soon as possible.

Thank you to everyone that has generously donated to this year's show awards. If you would like to donate, please print off the online form and mail it to the office or enter it on your convention registration form.

All of the affiliate insurance renewals have been mailed. If your club did not receive a renewal, contact the office and I will mail a replacement.

I would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding through the transition of finding a new Editor for the AVM. We have a great Interim Editor that has worked on the magazine for years. With Ruth out of the office, I have hired a young lady, **Raelee Slone**, to come in and help a few hours a week. Please give her a warm welcome, if you get a chance to speak to her on the phone.

I hope to see you all in Buffalo! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at all!

Amy

The AVSA Legacy Society

The AVSA Legacy Society is an outgrowth of the Tinari Endowment Fund. It was created by the Board of Directors to recognize bequests to the Society of \$1,000 or more. Bequests may be made in one's will or by designating the

Society as a beneficiary in an insurance policy. Legacy Society members wear a special ribbon at convention and are named in the *African Violet Magazine*. Members as of February 2018 are:

Douglas and Lynn Allen
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Judy Carter
Margaret Farrand
Dolores Gibbs

Linda Hall
Nancy Hayes
Sue Hoffmann
Terry Klemesrud
Richard and Anne Nicholas

Terri Post
Sue Ramser
Janet Riemer
Joyce Stork
Lynne Wilson

When Teacher Became a Student Too

By Jennie Lawrence

The day started out like any other. I turned on the UV lights for Spike the Bearded Dragon. The goldfish got breakfast. I went to check the seed pots. It had happened! The seeds were germinating, and tiny green plants were growing.

They were ahead of schedule. At planting time, the students calculated that they would start germinating on October 14, yet they were four days early. As the teens came in to check their pots and discovered the new life, we brainstormed possible ideas about why we had early plant growth. Suggestions were varied.



The new seedlings.

"Maybe Ronn (Nadeau) doesn't really know how long it takes." I assured them that this was not the case.

"Maybe we are just good!" Finally, everyone came to the consensus that it was probably because we had the pots on a heating pad. (Again, I wish we had kept one at room temperature as a control pot.)

That afternoon, we calculated the rate of germination based on the idea that each pot started with 200 seeds. Pot One had 21 tiny plants, or 10.5% germination. Pot Two did not fare so well, with only 8% of the seeds producing plants. Pot Three had the lowest rate, at 7%, and Pot Four came in at 9.5%. See the chart at the end of this article for full details.

We continued to count the number of plantlets daily. We missed one day due to a field trip, and Pot One missed a daily count when its tenders were absent. By October 14, the expected date of germination, the seedlings were becoming very difficult to count. At that point, we decided it was time to just sit back, and watch them grow.

We did notice that Pot Four was experiencing some deaths. We brainstormed potential causes. These included overcrowding, and lack of proper nutrients. Because the pots were still bagged, students thought there might be a lack of oxygen. This resulted in a student led discussion about photosynthesis. I mentioned that we would soon be learning more about that topic. Because the plants were so small, we decided to let nature take its course.



Leaf measurement.

On November 4, we moved the pots off the heating pad. On the 14, we opened the bags part of the way. The students learned more about the photosynthesis process at this time. The largest leaves were 1cm in length at this point. The pots were also moved to the windowsill. Their only light was from the classroom florescent fixtures, which were turned on between 7:00 and 7:30 a.m., and off at 4 p.m., and light from the windows.

We also discussed phototropism, and the students learned that plants like to grow toward their light source, or toward the windows. This growth was balanced by turning the pots a quarter turn in a clockwise direction daily.

The students continued to monitor leaf growth, and watered each pot with a very mild fertilizer solution (1/4 tsp. of 10-10-10 per gallon of water.) Each pot received 5 ml as needed. This included Thanksgiving Day. That is one disadvantage to having living things in a classroom. Someone, usually the teacher, must tend to their needs, even on holiday breaks.

The teens had been opening the bags more and more, exposing the plantlets to the environment.

On November 28, the pots were moved halfway out of the bags, and on the 30th, they were completely out. This was 51 days after germination.



Plant pots in their partially opened bag.

Because of the varied growth in each pot, we made the mutual decision to let the plantlets grow until after the holiday break. At that time, we would make some decisions about starting to pot them up.

Germination Rate

	Pot No.	# Seedlings	% Germination
10/10/2016	1	21	10.5
	2	16	8.0
	3	14	7.0
	4	19	9.5
10/11/2016 Field Trip - No Data Collected			
10/12/2016	1	65	32.5
	2	43	21.5
	3	56	28.0
	4	77	38.5
10/13/2016	1	92	46.0
	2	54	27.0
	3	95	47.5
	4	82	41.0
10/14/2016	1	Not Available	Not available
	2	89	44.5
	3	120	60.0
	4	72	36.0

In Search of New Violets

Dr. Jeff Smith - *The Indiana Academy*

Ball State University • Muncie, IN 47306

Email: JSmith4@bsu.edu

This column is number 150, which represents 25 years of columns for the African Violet Magazine. Much has changed in our knowledge of the genetics of African violets during that time and a number of new traits have been developed. More encouraging is the work to combine traits together in new and interesting combinations. The plants we have in 2018 are similar, but yet different from those of 1993 when this column began. Some of the hybridizers of the past 25 years are gone, others are still developing plants and many new individuals are now in the field. In order to encourage future hybridizers, this anniversary column will go back to some of the basics of Genetics.



the certainty that the offspring will resemble the parents. You don't have to grow out a large number of offspring to see the results of the cross. Only a few offspring are needed, saving the hybridizer time and space.

When you cross "Like × Like" for one trait, you stabilize that trait allowing you to focus on a second different trait. For

example, if you are trying to improve the foliage of the plant, but want to retain the pink flowers, choosing parents that both have pink flowers will give pink flowered offspring. The foliage trait is your focus and you can try different parents to improve that character while avoiding introducing a new flower color into the offspring. Some hybridizers prefer to focus on improving one or two traits at a time. Using a "Like × Like" strategy for the traits that they are already satisfied with allows them to conserve those traits while working with the others. This can improve your chances of getting an offspring with the desired foliage improvement while conserving the flower color, reducing the number of seedlings that have to be grown out and evaluated. This is again a time and space saving method for the hybridizer.

Q: What can I expect if I cross two plants that both have the same characteristic?

A: A cross where both plants have the same characteristic can be called a cross of "Like × Like". For example, crossing a plant with blue flowers with another plant with blue flowers. The usual outcome of this type of cross is offspring that share the same trait as the parent. You can get some unexpected results, but usually the offspring will have the same trait as the parents.

Q: In a "Like × Like" cross, does it matter if the trait is a genetic dominant or a genetic recessive?

A: The answer may surprise you, but generally there is no difference. The offspring will still be the same as the parents. Crossing pink × pink flowers should give all pink offspring. Crossing blue × blue flowers will generally give all blue offspring. Pink is a genetic recessive color and blue is a genetic dominant, but the outcome of a "Like × Like" cross will usually breed true for that trait in the offspring.

Q: If crossing "Like × Like" gives the same trait in the offspring, why bother to make the cross at all?

A: Actually there are several reasons why hybridizers may make a "Like × Like" cross. One is

Q: Doesn't crossing "Like × Like" sometimes produce new types of offspring?

A: Yes, that is true in some circumstances. If the trait is a genetic dominant such as blue flowers, it is possible that the parent may have a hidden recessive for pink flowers in its cells. If both parents contain the hidden recessive, then there is a small probability that the recessive can be combined together from both parents and show in the offspring. In the simplest situation, the probability of getting the recessive expressed in the offspring is about 25%. Some traits, such as flower color are actually more complex and a number of different hidden recessives could be present in blue flowered parents such as white flowers, coral colors or fuchsia red color. These colors in addition to pink

flowers could appear in a cross of blue flowers $\times$ blue flowers, but the number offspring with these traits will usually be low.

Another time when "Like $\times$ Like" might produce something unexpected is when there is a mutation. Since mutations or genetic changes in the DNA are rare events, only a very small percentage of the offspring will be different. If only one offspring shows the trait in small sample size, it might be difficult to tell if the new offspring is a mutation or the chance combination of hidden recessive traits in the parents.

Q: Is there a reliable way to look at a parent and tell if it has a hidden recessive trait?

A: No, generally there is no way to tell. The only reliable way to know is to look at the plant's parents, or perhaps look their offspring. If one of their parents had a recessive trait, then the plant is probably carrying the recessive as a hidden trait. If the trait was not visible in the parents, the recessive could still be present, but the probability is much lower.

If you have used this plant in past crosses and produced recessive offspring that can be a clue that the parent has the recessive trait. The best way is to cross the suspect plant with a recessive carrying plant. For example, crossing a blue flowered plant suspected of carrying the pink recessive with a pink flowered plant. If the offspring are all blue, then the blue parent does not carry the pink recessive. If some of the offspring (approximately half) show the recessive trait, then the blue flowered plant is carrying pink flower color as a recessive. This crossing of a suspected recessive plant with a known recessive is sometimes known as a 'test cross'. Test crosses are a useful way to figure out if a trait is carrying hidden recessives for future hybridizing efforts.

Q: So what can be expected of crossing "Like $\times$ Unlike"?

A: When two plants different in their genetic traits are crossed, there are two likely outcomes. The first outcome is that one parent will dominant and all of the offspring will show the dominant trait.

For example, crossing a blue flowered plant with a pink flowered plant and the offspring are all blue. These offspring are now known to carry the recessive trait as a hidden recessive, which might be useful knowledge for future hybridizing efforts.

The second outcome is that the offspring will be mixed. Some will resemble the first parent and some will resemble the second parent. In this case it will not be clear which is the dominant trait and which is the recessive. For example, if you crossed a fuchsia red flowered plant with a pink flowered plant and get both fuchsia and pink flowered offspring, you can't tell which is the dominant or recessive trait. Further hybridizing would be needed to make this determination (note - fuchsia is dominant to pink).

The excitement of doing a "Like $\times$ Unlike" cross is that the results are frequently very mixed and unexpected. The chances of getting mixtures between the two parents are generally much higher. If your hybridizing goal is to create something "new", a "Like $\times$ Unlike" cross has a higher probability of giving that type of results.

One drawback of the "Like $\times$ Unlike" process is that you usually need to grow out a larger number of the offspring to detect the combinations that have been created between the two parents. This is especially true when the number of traits increase that "Like $\times$ Unlike". For example, if flower color, flower shape, petal count, plant size, leaf type, leaf shape, plant type etc. are all "Like $\times$ Unlike", the number of different kinds of offspring increases dramatically. Hybridizers are usually very pressed for space so it is challenging to accommodate all of the offspring from one "Like $\times$ Unlike" cross for a single trait let alone for multiple traits.

Final Summary – For those who are just starting with hybridizing the questions in this column should give you a basic starting place of the types of crosses to make and the most likely outcomes in the offspring. Knowledge is power, so studying more about the genetics of African violets will increase your success as you proceed "In Search of New Violets".



Registration Report

By Joe Bruns

1220 Stratford Lane • Hanover Park, IL 60133

Email: jbruns@qwip.net

Joyce Stork – Henderson, NV

'Stage Whisper' (10933) 11/10/2017
(J. Stork/K. Stork) Single-semidouble
white pansy/raspberry eye, radiating
streaks. Medium green, quilted, scalloped.

Standard

'Whirligig Star' (10934)
11/10/2017 (J. Stork/K. Stork) Single
white sticktite star/red-plum patches.

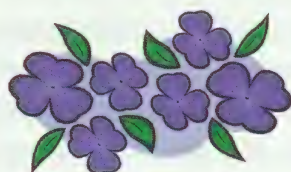
Medium green, ovate, quilted, serrated. **Standard**



REGISTRATION CHANGE

The following has been changed at
the request of the hybridizer:

'Buckeye Lazy Daze' (10479)
Change blossom description to "Semi-
double lavender frilled pansy/pink-
white and purple fantasy, purple
fantasy *with variable green edge.*"
(change in italics).



Senior Judges - Important Notice

Senior Judges may apply for a renewal examination between May 1 and September 1, 2018. Send request to **Barbara Werness, 12354 Naples Street NE, Blaine, MN 55449. Include** a check for **\$5.00 payable to AVSA** and **proof of three blue ribbons** as per AVSA Handbook, 2016 edition, page 83. Cash, personal check or cashiers check are acceptable. **Note: Sorry, but Canadian postal money orders can no longer be accepted.**

You may receive the examination by email as a Microsoft Word document. If not received, follow-up within two weeks. If you require a hard copy by snail mail, allow up to three weeks for delivery. Please specify email or hard copy.

A printed hard copy (not email) of the exam must be returned to Barbara Werness by October 1, 2018, for grading.

Advanced Judges who meet the requirements and wish to apply for their first Senior Judge examination, may send a request and \$5.00 check payable to AVSA to Barbara Werness.

Also send the following items of documentation of eligibility per AVSA Handbook:

1. List of all judging schools attended, grades, etc.
2. Signed schedule of five AVSA shows judged (copy of signed title page with all show information is sufficient.)
3. Verification of three blue ribbons earned per AVSA Handbook, 2016 Edition, Page 83.

Allow three weeks for delivery. Schedules and cards will be returned if a SASE is included with proper amount of postage. Applications postmarked after September 1, 2018, will be returned and application may be made next year.

No exams will be returned until after October 15, 2018. Please include email address and you will be notified of receipt of your exam or include a self-addressed postcard and it will be returned upon arrival of exam.

Barbara Werness

bwerness@comcast.net

763-754-3918

To Grandmother's House We Grow

By Mary Corondan

How did I get started growing African violets? The tale goes back to my grandmother's house and takes place over a half of a century ago.

I was about six years old when I remember seeing the first African violet. We had traveled by car for hours across Louisiana to Mississippi on our way to my grandparents' house. As we entered the house, we were greeted with hugs and kisses from our grandparents. Of course, they always commented on how much we had grown. Just beyond the living room was my grandmother's sewing room. In that room, there was a white flower cart stand with several shelves where she kept her African violets. This is where my enthusiasm for violets began. The flower cart was in an east window and the light would flood the room and cover the violets every morning. What a beautiful sight it was! Even in her kitchen window, my grandmother had clear glass jars of water with foil tops on them where she rooted leaves for propagation.

At one point I remember my mother saying with disdain, "I don't know why she fools with those things." Of course, my mother was referring to the violets. As I think back, this was rather humorous because a couple of decades later my mother had three violet stands having three or four shelves each which were filled with violets. There were far more violets than my grandmother ever grew. The African violet addiction is contagious. That is how I caught the fever!

My mother gave me my first African violet which was a standard. The gifts progressed to miniatures, semiminiatures, and finally trailers. After that, there was branching off to cousins of African violets such as *Episcias*, *Columnneas* and *Nematanthus*. We both joined violet clubs that were AVSA affiliates and began to show plants. Her club was in Baton Rouge, and mine was in Memphis.

No matter where you relocate, you have violet friends everywhere you go. There is a common thread that bonds violet enthusiasts. I have many violet friends in Louisiana who knew my mother.

Some of my violet friends are in Memphis where I joined my first club. When I moved to Dallas, I found great violet friends again. Now, I even have violet friends in Russian. It is wonderful to go to the AVSA Convention, Dixie Convention, and Lone Star Convention and see friends I have known for 35 years or more; and it is all because of our common interest in violets.

Violet shows are a wonderful place to show gorgeous plants and collect many new and different hybrids. The workshops at conventions, club programs, and shows are inspirational and help each of us to become better growers. However, for me, the best reward is in the wonderful bonding and friendships created by our hobby. Plants and leaves are shared to expand our collection. Through social media, people can relate instantaneously about their passion for violets.

My interest in violets all began because of a flower cart of African violets in my grandmother's sewing room. What began with my grandmother's love of violets has developed friendships for me throughout the United States and beyond. Nurturing these plants from a leaf or a seed, to babies, to beautiful blooming plants is truly gratifying. When you treat violets right, they reward you with their loveliness. Violet people are the same way. They are loving, caring, nurturing people. I appreciate the gift of growing violets that was given to me by my grandmother and mother. What joy and friendships have been brought to my life because of violets!

My mother painted a plaque for me with this inspirational poem.

*A leaf, a seed, a bud, a bloom,
a stem that gently drew
a flow of beauty from the soil;
and then a violet grew.
I do not dare, I will not say
it was my love and care.
For this I know, and rightly so,
the hand of God was there.*

Til Journeys End

By Judy Niemira

Now that you know what is in walking distance of the convention hotel – The Adam's Mark - in Buffalo for the 2018 AVSA National Convention let me tell you about some other gems in the area.

Still in the downtown area you can find the following sites.

SILO CITY a collection of old grain elevators. This privately owned site hosts many activities including walking, biking, and kayaking tours. You can also climb the silos, see the breweries, hear a poetry reading or enjoy music.

LARKINVILLE. Larkin Square lies at the heart of Larkinville, the site of the former Larkin Soap Company warehouse buildings. The Larkin Soap Company was a company founded in 1875 in Buffalo, New York as a small soap factory. It grew tremendously throughout the late 1800s and into the first quarter of the 1900s with an

approach called "The Larkin Idea" that transformed the company into a mail-order conglomerate that employed 4,000 people and had annual sales of \$28.6 million (equivalent to \$349,376,000 in 2017) in 1920. The company's success allowed them to hire Frank Lloyd Wright to design the iconic Larkin Administration Building, which stood as a symbol of Larkin prosperity until the company's demise in the 1940s.

This open public space provides a backdrop of colorful furniture amongst whimsical architecture, where community gatherings are filled with food, music and fun. Enjoy a nourishing lunch every weekday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in The Filling Station, a converted 1930's gas station with a focus on fresh flavors and seasonal ingredients. In the evenings, the square comes alive with fun, family-friendly community events including Food Truck Tuesday.

PIERCE-ARROW MUSEUM. In the 1870's, the George N. Pierce Company produced common

household items such as ice chests and birdcages. Pierce used his expertise in metal cage work to transition into the transportation field by manufacturing bicycles. As demand for improved bicycles grew, Pierce met high demands and industry innovation with the introduction of bicycle advancements such as the cushion frame and coaster brake. In 1901, the company produced its first, one single-cylinder automobile and also had a bicycle display at the Pan-American Exposition. The George N. Pierce Company became the Pierce-Arrow Motor Car Company in 1908 and began manufacturing larger luxurious automobiles for an affluent market.

In 1909, President Howard Taft requested two Pierce-Arrows to serve as official cars of the White House. Pierce-Arrows served as presidential vehicles from Taft to Roosevelt.

Pierce-Arrow introduced larger, more powerful cars in 1915 and 1916, that offered more luxury options. The company realized profits of \$4 million per year. Pierce-Arrow's success reached its peak during World War I, producing a great number of trucks to be used in the

War in Europe. The Pierce-Arrow Motor Car Company was a symbol of one of Buffalo's most significant eras of growth, prosperity and of American innovation and ingenuity.

ALBRIGHT KNOX ART GALLERY. The Albright-Knox Art Gallery is one of the oldest museums dedicated to the art of our time, and the sixth oldest public art institution in the United States. It was founded in December 1862 as the Buffalo Fine Arts Academy with former President Millard Fillmore among its incorporators.

The Albright-Knox sits at the edge of Frederick Law Olmsted's Delaware Park. Edward B. Green designed its original neoclassical building and its modern addition was designed by Gordon Bunshaft.



The Albright-Knox's 150-year tradition of collecting and exhibiting the art of its time has given rise to an extraordinary collection that includes works by Francis Bacon, Frida Kahlo, Roy Lichtenstein, Georgia O'Keeffe, Pablo Picasso, Andy Warhol, and many others.

THE RICHARDSON OLMSTED COMPLEX.

The large Medina red sandstone and brick hospital buildings were designed in 1870 by the American architect, Henry Hobson Richardson, in concert with the famed landscape team of Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux incorporating a system of enlightened treatment for people with mental illness developed by Dr. Thomas Kirkbride. The campus consists of a central administrative tower and five pavilions or wards progressively set back on each side, for eleven buildings total, all connected by short curved two-story corridors.

It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1986. Over the years, as mental health treatment changed and resources were diverted, the buildings and grounds began a slow deterioration. In 2006, the Richardson Center Corporation was formed with a mandate to save the buildings and bring the Campus back to life through a State appropriation for this architectural treasure. Patient records from 1881 to 1975 are in the collection of the New York State Archives in Albany, NY.

FOREST LAWN CEMETERY. There's no place like Forest Lawn. As one of the first deliberately designed and professionally landscaped rural cemeteries in the United States, its first interment took place in 1850. Today, there are more than 161,000 permanent residents in this 269-acre, not-for-profit cemetery, where all are welcome. Forest Lawn is also at the heart of Western New York's cultural tourism renaissance. Unmatched natural beauty – hills, valleys, lakes and streams abound. Sculptural masterpieces. Living history. Most importantly, the stories of those who now rest in peace under our care – from a U.S. President and foreign royalty, to captains of industry, artists, inventors, veterans from every U.S. conflict since the Revolutionary War and people like us who have quietly built the community that we and our families enjoy.

Just a few of the many monuments include:

- a bronze statue of a little girl standing on a small island in Mirror Lake, "The Little Girl" was created in 1914 by sculptor Grace Rumsey Goodyear and stands in memory of all children.
- a giant bronze bust of the great Italian composer, Giuseppe Verdi, created by Italian sculptor Antonio Ugo, this sculpture was presented to Forest Lawn by the Federation of Italian American Societies to honor the many Italian craftsmen who chiseled the thousands of magnificent marble and granite monuments in the cemetery.

The massive Romanesque Walden-Myer mausoleum in Section X was built in 1857 and supports a giant stone globe upon its roof. One of the interments in the mausoleum is that of Albert James Myer (1829-1880), who forecast the weather so successfully that he founded the U.S. Weather Service. He also became the first commander of the Army Signal Corps.

The largest and most expensive family mausoleum in Forest Lawn was built in 1872. It is the Letchworth-Skinner mausoleum holding the families of Josiah Letchworth and John Skinner in an opulent three-level, sandstone Greek temple with an interior of Italian and Egyptian marble containing elegant sarcophagi and crypts.

In 1874, the thirteenth president of the United States, Millard Fillmore (1800-1874), was buried in Section F.

The Orson Phelps (1805-1870) family monument, Section I, was created by the famous Italian sculptor, Nicola Cantalamessa-Papotti, in Rome in 1876. The magnificent monument comprises five carved marble figures: Faith, Hope, Charity, Fortitude, and on top the majestic angel, Gabriel, holding the horn he will blow someday. Cantalamessa-Papotti received numerous sculpting commissions from King Ferdinand of Italy and Pope Pius IX. He also created the memorial for U.S. President James A. Garfield and was an art judge at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893.

The most lavish tribute to Victorian taste in Forest Lawn was unveiled in 1888. It is the Blocher memorial in Section 11. Immense bell-shaped granite stones resting on giant granite pilasters

separated by floor-to-ceiling glass windows enclose a sentimental tableau. Father John Blocher and mother Elizabeth Blocher stand grieving over their dead son, Nelson, while a voluptuous female angel gazes down from overhead. The marble sculptures were created by the Swiss-born Italian artist, Franklin Torrey.

Today, there are more than 3,500 trees in Forest Lawn, representing 100 different species and varieties and making the cemetery an important arboretum. Over 240 kinds of birds have been spotted in Forest Lawn. They are encouraged to be year-round residents by no-rent housing provided in the countless birdhouses placed throughout the cemetery.

Among the famous residents you will find:

- Dorothy Goetz Berlin, wife of composer Irving Berlin
- Dr. Frederick Cook, who discovered the North Pole
- Rick James, music legend
- Mary Burnett Talbert, civil rights pioneer
- Red Jacket, Seneca Chief

OUR LADY OF VICTORY BASILICA. One of Western New York's most exquisite landmarks, Our Lady of Victory National Shrine and Basilica attracts visitors worldwide. Rivaling the great churches of Europe, the Basilica was built in 1926 as a gift of thanks to the Blessed Mother from Venerable Nelson Baker, a current candidate for sainthood whose final resting place is located within the church. The design of the exterior of the basilica was the work of French ecclesiastical architect, Emile Ulrich.

The majority of the exterior of the shrine is constructed almost entirely of pure white marble, supplied by the Georgia Marble Company of Tate, Georgia. Throughout the Basilica's interior and parts of the exterior, a combination of more than 40 different types, colors, and designs of Italian marble can also be found.

A prominent feature of the Basilica's exterior is the large copper dome. The dome, measuring 165 feet in height, was second in size only to the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C. at the time of its completion in 1926.

BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY BOTANICAL

GARDENS. The idea of the Gardens first began in 1868 when the Buffalo Parks Commission started meeting with landscape architect Fredrick Law Olmsted, Sr., and Partners.

The conservatory's tri-domed glass, wood and steel building were designed by Lord & Burnham, who were among the premier conservatory designers of the time. Construction methods were based upon the famous Crystal Palace and Kew Gardens Palm House in England. When built in 1897-1899, it was one of the largest public greenhouses in the country (at a cost of \$130,000). Today there are fewer than a dozen large Victorian conservatories in America. This is one of only two with a tri-dome design (the New York Botanical Garden is the other).

The first director, Professor John F. Cowell, oversaw the growing of plants for the park and personally located and obtained unusual tree specimens. He spent decades exploring the Americas and the Caribbean, sending back seeds and small plants for the conservatory. Shortly after it opened, thousands of visitors to the 1901 Pan-American Exposition visited South Park's conservatory and gardens, which thus quickly gathered national renown.

EAST AURORA. Prior to becoming President of the United States, Millard Fillmore lived in East Aurora with his wife Abigail from 1826 to 1830. The house he built there while practicing law in the beginning of his political career is currently maintained by the Aurora Historical Society. The 1825 structure is restored to that period and features some original Fillmore furniture of the era, as well as items from Fillmore's presidential years.

The founder of the Roycroft Movement, Elbert Hubbard, also lived there during the turn of the twentieth century. Hubbard and his wife died on board the RMS *Lusitania* in 1915. One of the town's most famous landmarks, the Roycroft Inn, was converted from the Hubbards' original print shop and opened as an inn in 1905 to accommodate the influx of famous visitors attracted by Hubbard's ideas as well as the books, Mission-style furniture and metalware produced by the 500 Roycroft artisans on the South Grove Street Roycroft campus. The Roycroft Campus was granted National Landmark Status in 1986.

East Aurora is also the birthplace of and home to the corporate headquarters for Fisher-Price.

The town was the home of the inaugural owner of the NHL franchise Buffalo Sabres, Seymour H. Knox III. The Knox Estates, now known as Knox Farm, is a 633-acre (2.56 km²) New York state park.

East Aurora is home to the corporate headquarters of Moog, Inc. Moog is a designer and manufacturer of motion and fluid controls and control systems for applications in aerospace, defense, industrial and medical devices. The company operates under four segments: aircraft controls,

space and defense controls, industrial controls, and components.

However, it's most famous current resident is our own Paul Kroll. His home is not available for touring at this time.

Well, there are the highlights of the area hosting the next convention. We all hope you have a wonderful time here and have the opportunity to explore all Buffalo and the area has to offer. You can find more information on organized ways to sight see on the website explorebuffalo.org.

Oh. We have Niagara Falls too.



AVSA/AVSC 2018 Convention Souvenir Book Ads

This year's convention is in Buffalo, NY, May 20 to May 27, 2018. The theme is: "African Violets CAN Link US Together."

Ads can be well wishes or advertising which will help defray costs. Ads are an excellent way to promote your organization.

The maximum size of a full-page ad is 8" high x 5" wide, a half-page is 4" high x 5" wide and a quarter-page is 2" high x 5" wide. The rates for the ads are: quarter-page \$30.00, half-page \$50.00 and a full-page ad is \$90.00, US dollars (USD). All inside ads will be in black and white. We also offer three full-page ads placed on the inside front cover, inside

back cover and outside back cover for \$125.00 USD, printed in black and white, or \$150.00 USD, printed in color. Only cover pages in color.

To purchase an ad, please contact Holly Pohl, Souvenir Book Chair, 17 Lucia Court, Lancaster, NY 14086; email: hollylou51@gmail.com. The deadline for all ads is April 13, 2018. Camera-ready copy is preferred (PDF or Word doc or jpeg file).

Checks or money orders in USD should be made payable and sent to Barbara Donsky, 2018 Buffalo Convention Treasurer, 65 Fairway Drive, Orchard Park, NY 14127.

Thank you in advance for your support!

"Timeless Violets" from MAAVS



Jolly Dear

Exhibited by:
Linda Abplanalp
Hybridized by:
H. Pittman
Semiminiature

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



King David

Exhibited by:
Leslie Swezey
Hybridized by:
D. Thompson
Standard

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Kohleria
'Gunsmoke'

Exhibited by: Vicki Carr



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Utomlennoe
Solntse

Exhibited by:
Rodney Barnett
Hybridized by:
K. Morev
Standard

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Primulina sp. "USBRG 98-083"

Exhibited by: Janice Davidson

Anne & Frank Tinari Endowment Fund

Janet Riemer • 256 Pennington-Harbourton Rd. • Pennington, NJ 08534

November 2017 • Total this period: \$1,045.00



Geneva – \$100-\$499

Judith M. Carter

In memory of John Carter

Roxanna & Roy Bailey

In memory of John Carter

Sherrie & Phil Wallace

In memory of John Carter

Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society

In appreciation of judging by

Richard Nicholas & Mary Corondan

African Violet Society of Greater Tulsa

In memory of John Carter



Multicolor – \$50-\$99

Jan & Ron Davidson

In memory of John Carter

First African Violet Society of Dallas

B. J. Ohme

In memory of John Carter

Claudia & George Soukup

In memory of John Carter

African Violet Society of Greater Tulsa

In memory of Mark Whitmer

African Violet Club of Morris County (NJ)



Two-Tone – \$25-\$49

Anne & Richard Nicholas

In memory of Rhona Thurman

Central Arkansas African Violet Society

Janet Riemer

In memory of Rhona Thurman

Allen Koch

In memory of John Carter

Tampa African Violet Society

In memory of John Carter

Patricia Daniel

In memory of John Carter



Thumbprint – Under \$25

Blanche Ryel

In memory of John Carter

Glen & Nettie Singer

In memory of John Carter

Joan Day

In memory of John Carter

Tristate African Violet Council

In lieu of judging expenses for Sandy Skalski,

Paula Bal, Betsy Branson & Laurel Brown

JOIN TODAY!

The African Violet Society of America



2375 North St.

Beaumont, Texas 77702

(409) 839-4725

<http://avsa.org>

Write or call today for information

Coming Events

March 10 - California

South Coast AVS
Judged Show/Sale
South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA
Hours: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm; Culture class 10:30 am
Jacquie Eisenhut (310) 325-2993
jaceis905@gmail.com

March 24-25 - Texas

Moonlight African Violet and Gesneriad Society
Judged Show/Sale
Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center
3220 Botanic Garden Blvd.
Fort Worth, Texas 76107
Sale: March 24 - 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
March 25 - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Exhibit: March 24 - 12 noon - 5:00 pm
March 25 - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Kathy Leach (817) 703-6566; kbobl@sbcglobal.net

March 16 - 17 - Texas

First AVS of Denton Show and Sale
March 16 - 17, 2018
Friday, March 16, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Saturday, March 17, 10:00 am - 3:30 pm

March 17 - Texas

First Austin African Violet Society
49th Annual Judged Show and Sale
Austin Area Garden Center
Zilker Botanical Garden
2220 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX 78746
March 17 - 9:00 am - 4:30 pm
Susan Kautz (512) 365-1818
gizzmo@austin.rr.com
www.faaavs.org

March 24 - Delaware

Delaware African Violet &
Gesneriad Society
Display and Plant Sale
Saturday, March 24, 2018
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Boscov's Department Store
Christiana Town Center
Route 273, Christiana, DE 19702
rlafash@comcast.net

March 24 - Michigan

Michigan State African
Violet Society
Display & Sale, African Violets
Streps & other Gesneriads
Saturday, March 24, 2018
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Matthaei Botanical Gardens
1800 Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105
LynnAllen0413@comcast.net

April 6 - 7 - Minnesota

African Violet Society of Minnesota (AVSM)
Judged Show and Sale
Friday, April 6 - Saturday, April 7
North Town Mall (in the court adjacent to Best Buy)
398 Northtown Drive Blaine, MN 55434
Friday, April 6 - 10:00 am - 7:00 pm
Saturday, April 7 - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Jude Neumann judeneumann@frontiernet.net
<http://sites.google.com/site/avsmminnesota>

April 7 - Connecticut

Windsor AVS Annual Judged Show/Sale
Grace Episcopal Church
311 Broad Street, Windsor, CT 06095
8:30 am - 2:30 pm
Nancy Hayes (860) 930-6260
violetnancy@comcast.net
<http://www.windsorafricanviolets.org/>

April 7 - 8 - California

Judged Show
African Violets Through the Years
Shepard's Garden & Arts Center
3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA
Saturday, April 7, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Sunday, April 8, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Kathy Norton; kathy.norton@mac.com

April 7-8 - New Jersey

African Violet Club of Morris County
22nd Annual Judged Show & Plant Sale
Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 353 East Hanover Ave.
Morristown, NJ 07962-1295
Saturday, April 7, 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Sunday, April 8, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Jill Fischer - Publicity Chairperson
HF.JG.Fischer@comcast.net

April 14 - Connecticut

Thimble Islands AVS Show/Sale
Saturday, April 14 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Willoughby Wallace Library
146 Thimble Islands Road, Exit 56, Branford
Madeline Clem (203) 481-9455

April 14-15 - Ohio

Cincinnati African Violet Society and
African Violet Society of Dayton
Joint Club Show and Sale
Eastgate Mall near Batavia, Ohio
I-275 and St., Rt. 32
4601 Eastgate Blvd., Cincinnati, Ohio 45245
Saturday, April 14
Sales Table - 10:00 am - 9:00 pm
Show open for viewing - 1:00 pm
Sunday, April 15
Sales Table and Show: 12 noon - 6:00 pm
Karen Cenci (513) 325-0395
kcenci@hotmail.com
www.avsdayton.com

April 14-15 - Missouri

Metropolitan St. Louis African Violet Council
63rd Annual Judged Show & Sale
"Violets Go To The Movies"
Missouri Botanical Garden - Orthwein Hall
4344 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63110
9:00 am to 5:00 pm; (314) 406-4628 (Martha)
linda.mslavc@gmail.com (Linda)

April 20-21 - New Jersey

Bergen County African Violet Society
Annual Judged Show and Sale
Old North Reformed Church
120 Washington Avenue, Dumont, NJ 07628
Friday, April 20 - 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Saturday, April 21 - 9 am - 3 pm
Sharon Lynch (201) 784-9501
violetmom@optonline.net

April 20 - 21 Tennessee

Memphis African Violet Society
2018 Spring Show and Sale
Central Christian Church
531 South McLean Blvd.,
Corner of McLean & Peabody
April 20 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
April 21 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

April 21 - Washington

Seattle African Violet Society and
Puget Sound Gesneriad Society Show and Sale
Wallingford Senior Center

4649 Sunnyside Ave N #140
Seattle, WA 98103
9:30 am - 4:00 pm
seattleafricanvioletsociety@yahoo.com

April 21-22 - New York

2018 Show Chair CDAVS
The Capital District African Violet Society
"A Violet Rainbow" Show and Sale
St. Matthew's Catholic Church
25 Mountainview St., Voorheesville, NY
Saturday, April 21 - 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm
Sunday, April 22 - 12:00 am until 4:00 pm
Dorothy Raymond - dorothyraymond60@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/Capital-District-African-Violet-Society-133210976714941/>

April 27 - 29 Iowa

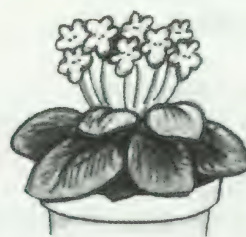
The Evening African Violet Club of Des Moines
Annual Judged Show & Sale "Violets are Golden"
Merle Hay Mall
3850 Merle Hay Road, Des Moines, Iowa
Friday April 27 - Sale noon - 9:00 pm
Saturday April 28 - Sale 10:00 am - 9:00 pm
Show Open after judging
Sunday April 29 - Show and Sale 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Tina Cook - Show Chair
mollymonster0305@gmail.com
Facebook: The Evening African Club of Des Moines

April 28 - Oregon

Portland African Violet Club
Tabor Heights Methodist Church
6161 SE Stark St., Portland, OR
Saturday, April 28 - 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Cindi Nofziger; ccnofziger@comcast.net

April 28 - 29 - Massachusetts

Bay State African Violet Society Show and Sale
Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston, MA
11 French Drive
P.O. Box 598, Boylston, MA 01505-0598
10:00 am to 5:00 pm Saturday
10:00 am to 4:00 pm Sunday
Cynthia Brooks - Show Chairperson
cybrooks@charter.net
<https://baystateafricanvioletsociety.wildapricot.org/>



April 28-29 - New York

"Storm of Violets"

AVGSS of Syracuse, New York

Beaver Lake Nature Center

8477 East Mud Lake Road

Baldwinsville, NY 13027

Saturday, April 28 - 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Sunday, April 29 - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

There is a \$4.00 parking fee

Linda Rowe; Bloominjungle@frontiernet.net

April 28-29 - Virginia

Tidewater African Violet Society Show and Sale

Norfolk Botanical Gardens

6700 Azalea Garden Rd., Norfolk, VA

Sat. April 28 - 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Sun. April 29 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Pat Knight (757) 479-2115; kemts@cox.net

May 5-6 - Ohio

North Coast Gesneriad &

African Violet Display & Show

Saturday May 5 - 10:00 am-5:00 pm

Sunday May 6 - 12 Noon - 5:00 pm

Cleveland Botanical Gardens

11030 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio

Penny Johnson (440) 286-8235

kritterfeeder@hotmail.com

May 5-6, 2018 - Ohio

Columbus African Violet Society

69th Annual Show & Sale

Franklin Park Conservatory & Botanical Gardens

1777 East Broad St.

Columbus, Ohio 43203

Show: Saturday May 5 - 12 Noon - 5:00 pm

Sunday, May 6 - 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sales: Saturday & Sunday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Show Chair: Madelyn Sechler mjsechler@gmail.com

May 5-6 - Wisconsin

Oshkosh Violet Society

Annual Judged Show & Sale

St Jude the Apostle Church Hall

531 Knapp St., Oshkosh, WI

Saturday, May 5 - 10:00 am - 4:30 pm

Sunday, May 6 - 11:30 am - 3:00 pm

Kevin Degner (920) 426-3764

kevin_degner@sbcglobal.net

May 11 - May 12 - Montana

Billings Bloomers African Violet Club Annual Sale

St Andrew Presbyterian Church

180 24th St W, Billings, MT.

Across from West High School

Friday, May 11 - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Saturday, May 12 - 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Ron Junkert (406) 672-5651

Robin Kraft (406) 256-3513

Bev Amen (406) 656-2694

Lots of new varieties and companion plants.

Also supplies available.

Jo Ann Levine - Sale Chairman

sassysmom@hotmail.com

May 12 - Nova Scotia, Canada

Annapolis Valley African Violet Society

Annual Show/Sale

Saturday, May 12, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

St John's United Church Hall, 202 Main Street

Middleton, Nova Scotia BOS 1P0

Admission: Free Will Offering

Dixie Cress (902) 538-0741;

dl.cress@ns.sympatico.ca

May 19 - California

Burbank/Montrose Violet Show

Burbank & Montrose African Violet Society

Show and Sale at Descanso Gardens

Van de Kamp Hall, 1418 Descanso Drive

La Canada, California

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Susan Eyraud - President (818) 951-3597

www.burbankafricanviolet.weebly.com

May 12 - New Jersey

Susan Eyraid - President African Violet Club of

Burlington County

Annual Judged Show and Sale

Medford Leas Retirement Community

1 Medford Leas Way

Medford, NJ

Hours: Noon-5:00 pm

Susan Arnao: searnao@aol.com

September 7-8 - Ohio

The Ohio State African Violet Society

Annual Judged Show and Sale

Kingwood Center Gardens

50 Trimble Rd., Mansfield, OH 44906

Friday, September 7

Sales Room 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

The Show is open for viewing 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Saturday, September 8

Sale & Show 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Free to public (Kingwood Center Parking is \$5/car)

Mel Grice: melsgrice@earthlink.net or

(937) 654-7014

www.osavs.org



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Primulina maciejewskii

Exhibited by: Ronald Davidson

The Future of African Violets LED lighting, DNA modifications, Advanced Photography

By Neil Lipson • Photo Credit by Neil Lipson

There's been a "leap" in new developments for African violet growers. The most interesting is with the use of LED lamps. There are other areas that seem to have taken off in the world of violets, and I will try to predict what they are and their impact on the growers.



how to use them for violets. They run much cooler, so their use has to be married into the environment that these plants grow.

These two violets were grown under LEDs by Sharon Gartner, which will show you that you CAN win dozens of ribbons with these lamps:

LED lamps

LED lamps have been available for a few years now, but it took some time before the lamps improved and growers were winning best-in-show ribbons. Until recently, LED research was done by NASA for growing tomatoes in space and the marijuana industry.

The lamp manufacturers began to notice an increase in interest in these very highly efficient lamps and apparently began research on growing other plants with them. As a result, they have developed good quality lamps that give off nearly perfect color balance for both the plant growth AND for visual and photographic functions. This is the best of both worlds! The new LED lamps now are pure white, which eliminates the red/blue glare, which many growers can't stand. Be careful in which lamp you purchase!

I am presently doing research on all of the LED lamps out there and will do an article once I have more information. Please reference my previous article on LED lamps in the November/December 2017 in AVM last year.

Yes, these lamps have their own nuances, and there does need to be some tweaking on



This is Kilauea - grower Sharon Gartner.



Ma's King Carnival - grower Sharon Gartner

DNA Analysis

DNA analysis using either a gene sequencer or gene splicing has been around for a few years, and at this time, the cost is quite high making it unlikely for a "hybridizer" to use it to develop new violets. The cost is gradually dropping, and when it hits a threshold cost, you may see some new varieties, the ability to determine what an unlabeled violet really is, and where it came from in the hybridizing process.

Most of you have noticed how cheap the process has become in Genealogy DNA testing, and I hope that this technology will be available to growers of ALL types of plants to improve the hybridizing process.

I spoke to DNA researcher Dr. Rachel Martin, and she responded:

"It's not a question of time (or fundamental research), it's money. The technology to do all of that exists, but actually implementing it is VERY expensive and requires a lot of highly skilled labor. Plant research is not very well funded in general, and most of the dollars goes to food crops."

African Violet Photography

Warning: This may be too technical for some of you.

Believe it or not, African violet photography is improving for some very interesting reasons. There have been some "problems" in this specialized photography, like color balance, background lighting, and shadow reduction. Here is what I've experienced in this area.

I have had some difficult times in getting the color right, and I actually wrote a few articles on this. I have found that photographing the violets at shows with ambient artificial light (the cheap CFLs they use in the shows) did NOT give the best results and caused a lot of adjustments when I processed the photos. I have even found that

those kinds of photos could not be completely corrected at all. I reduced many of these problems by using a powerful flash (or even the flash on the camera) and the largest diffuser I could find to minimize shadows. If you don't worry about shadows, then even a cheap camera will give you good results.

The type of camera you use has a LARGE influence in getting the right shot. For example, the depth-of-field (making sure both the front AND the back of the violet are in focus) varies depending on the camera. With a full-frame digital camera (like the Canon 5D Mark 4), you REALLY need to pay close attention to lens settings and know what you're doing. The smaller APS-C sensor (like that used in the Canon 60D, 70D, 80D, and the 7D for example) is more forgiving. And a smart phone with a tiny camera sensor (like the iPhone series, the Samsung Galaxy, Google Pixel, etc.) is better yet. In the latter case, the reason is that an iPhone 6, for example, has a lens equivalent to a 29mm f/15 lens on a 35mm format camera, which contributes to overall image clarity.

For the best depth-of-field (D-O-F) in AV photography, the smart phone is the best, then the APS-C, followed by the large format digital cameras. If you want to use a full-frame camera, you really need to stop the lens down quite a bit (using an aperture setting of f11 or f16) to improve the D-O-F.

I would like to thank Dr. Rachel Martin (Professor of Chemistry, Molecular Biology & Biochemistry at the University of California, Irvine), Mike Heck, a serious long time photographer friend of mine and Carolee Carter for her technical help and proofreading.

Neil Lipson is a full-time computer consultant. He can be reached by emailing him at ndlipson@gmail.com or calling 610-356-6183 after 1 pm Eastern time. He will return your call.



"And the winners are ..." 434 Plumwood Way • Fairview, TX 75069

By Mary Corondan

Email: mcorondan@yahoo.com

AV COUNCIL OF FLORIDA, FL -

Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Kris, Cajun's Coujon; Semiminiature: Kentucky Gooseberries, **Phyllis King**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Cajun's Blueberry Hill, **Sharon Gartner**. Best Miniature: Jolly Fun; Best Species: *S. 8* clone Cha Simba, **Carolee Carter**. Best Trailer: Pixie Runaround; Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosmea* 'Shortnin' Bread'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bobbi Johannsen**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Mary Lou Harden**.

AVC OF GREATER KANSAS CITY, KS -

Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lilian Jarrett Variegated, Ma's Happily Ever After, Sora Purple Clouds; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Jitterbug, Texas Space Dust, Precious Red; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Snow Leopard; Best Standard: Ma's Happily Ever After; Best Miniature: Rob's Jitterbug; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lynn Canning**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *S. 5c2* clone *diplotricha* Parker, *S. 5c1* clone *ionantha*, *S. 5* clone *grotei*, **Dale Cox**. Best Trailer: RS-Klad, **Vicky Avery**. Best Gesneriad: *Primulina* 'Moonlight', **Pat Inbody**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Marian Schaaf**.

AVS OF PHILADELPHIA, PA - Winners:

Best AVSA Standard Collection: Cajun's Coujon, Buckeye Nostalgia, Cajun's Flamboyant Mistress; Best in Show/Best Species: *S. 8* clone *rupicola*; Best Standard: Cajun's Coujon; Best Miniature: Rob's Chilly Willy; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Karen Durzuweit**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Slow Dancin', Honky Tonk Blues, Raspberry Glitz; Best Semiminiature: Jolly Fireball, **Stephanie Griffith**. Best Gesneriad: *Smithiantha* 'Cass Hybrid', **Betsy Gottshall**.

CENTRAL ARKANSAS AVS, AR - Win-

ners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Gem, Jersey Snow Flakes, Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler; Best in Show/Best Standard: Jersey Snow



Flakes; Best Species: *S. 5c1* clone *ionantha*, **Glenda Robertson**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Cajun's Zydeco, Optimara EverPrecious, Buckeye Tea Party; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Red Bandito, Rob's Outer Orbit, Rob's Inner Orbit; Best Semiminiature: Red Bandito; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Danny Tidwell**. Best Miniature: Shirl's Hawaiian Lei'; Best Trailer: Deer Trail, **Alice Brown**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Mom's Plant', **Kim Holbert**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Betty Ferguson**.

DELAWARE AV AND GESNERIAD SOCI-

ETY, DE - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jolly Orchid, Everdina, Mac's Momentary Meltdown; Best in Show/Best Species: *S. ionantha* subsp. *grandifolia*; Best Standard: Optimara Connecticut; Best Semiminiature: Mac's Momentary Meltdown; Best Miniature: Imp's Fairy Berry; Best Trailer: Cajun's McKenna Trail, **Bobbie Lafashia**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jolly Fire, Honky Tonk Blues, Raspberry Glitz; Best Design, **Stephanie Griffith**. Best Gesneriad: *Aeschynanthus* 'Big Apple', **Gary Hunter**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Barb Borleske**. Design Sweepstakes, **Terry Celano**.

LONE STAR AV COUNCIL, TX - Winners:

Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Nostalgia, Cajun's Storm Watch, Cajun's Flamboyant Mistress; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boogie Woogie, Rob's Outer Orbit, Rob's Suicidal Squirrel; Best in Show/Best Standard: Buckeye Nostalgia; Best Miniature: Rob's Chilly Willy; Best Species: *S. 5c2* clone *diplotricha* Parker, **Wayne Geeslin**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Cajun's Drama Queen, Cajun's Hot Expectations, Carolina Elegant Affair; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Shirl's Snow Cone, Mac's Callow Fellow, Cajun's Le Bon Ton Roule; Best Semiminiature: Jolly Andrea, **Ken Muzalewski**.

Best Trailer: Demers Pixie Belle; Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosmea martinii*, **Bill Price**. Best Design, **Vickie Crider**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Penny Smith-Kerker**. Design Sweepstakes, **Jane Rexilius**.

MID-ATLANTIC AVS, VA - Winners: Cajun's Fair Maiden, Cajun's Queen's Sugar, Annabelle, **Barbara Greenawalt**. Best Species Collection: *S. 5c1* clone *ionantha*, *S. 5b* clone *grotei*, *S. 5f* clone *orbicularis*; Best in Show/Best Species: *S. 5f* clone *orbicularis*; Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia pusilla*, **Kitty Hedgepeth**. Best Standard: Rain Man, **Rodney Barnett**. Best Semiminiature: Jolly Dear; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Linda Abplanalp**. Best Miniature: Toy Castle, **Sue Hoffmann**. Best Design, **Pat Knight**. Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Stewart**.

PORTLAND AVS, OR - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Two-w Manita, Ian Minuet, Treasure Chest; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jolly Mischief, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Super Boy; Best Standard: Ian-Sahara; Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosmea minor*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Cindi Nofziger**.

Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: N-Thumbelina, **Kristie Moore**. Best Miniature: Fem Fatale, **Penny Eggleston**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Diane Reinmuth**.

TRISTATE AV COUNCIL - NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wild Irish Rose, Jersey Snow Drops, Jersey Blue Moonlight; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Honey Blue Angel, Petite Jewel, Rob's Chilly Willy; Best Species Collection: *S. 5c1* clone *ionantha* Mather No. 20, *S. 5c1* clone *tongwensis* Uppsala 3397, *S. ionantha* subsp. *velutina*; Best in Show/Best Standard: Jersey Blue Moonlight; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best Miniature: Honey Blue Angel; Best Species: *S. 5c1* clone *tongwensis* Uppsala 3397; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bob Kurzynski**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Taffeta Blue, Optimara Martinique; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Sapphire, Optimara Little Amethyst, Frosted Denim; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Best Gesneriad: *Primulina glandulosa* var. *yanshuoensis*, **Joseph Palagonia**. Best Design, **Paula Bal**. Design Sweepstakes, **Jan Murasko**.

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Dianna Walston • 2210 S. Courtland Ave., Kokomo, IN 46902
Donations received November 1, 2017 - January 4, 2018 • **Total: \$315.00**



Multicolor - \$50-\$99

Kathy Bell, Tucson, AZ
Trudy Brekel, Brighton, CO



Two-Tone - \$25-\$49

Albert L. Cenci, Milford, OH
LuAnn Christenson, Eldridge, IA
Quad Cities, AVS
Barbara Greenawalt, Glen Allen, VA
Richmond, AVS

*In lieu of expenses for Laurene Jones
for her excellent program*
Barbara D. Taswell-Miller

Olathe, KS

Mary Perkins, Abilene, TX



Thumbprint - Under \$25

Paula Bal, Princeton Junction, NJ
Tristate AV Council

*In lieu of judging expenses for
Jill Fisher and Judy Smith*
Christine Beauchamp, Eldon, MO
Victoria Frey, Howe, OK
Beverly Geary, Miles City, MT
Patricia Huffman, Carmichaels, PA
Kathleen Miller, Miami, FL
Nellie Reese, South Chesterfield, VA

My Violet Journey

By Josh McKinney • Madison, AL

I started growing African Violets in elementary school in the late eighties. Having been blessed with a green thumb as my Mom, Grandmother and Great Grandmothers grew them. The time came when I was ready to attempt growing my own. I had admired the beautiful violets in the supermarket and asked my mom if I could have one and she said yes! I picked out a two-toned pink one, an Optimara Rhapsodie Sabrina(#6989).

Later came the beautiful blue Acadia (#6541), a semidouble blue with plain, dark green leaves. Denver (#6556) had its white flowers above girl foliage. In addition, Molokai (#6578) with light blue blooms with a geneva edge. The leaves were dark green with a red reverse. Does anyone else remember the striking Zodiac series, most with girl foliage? I had my plants growing on top of an old metal school desk in natural light. I only continue to grow Optimara Acadia because of a kind friend at my church (who I had given a start years before) had shared a leaf or two with me.

Sometime later, when admiring my Grandmother's violets, I asked if I could have one. She gave me a start of what I came to call 'Purply'. It appeared to be a sport of a supermarket violet with medium green foliage and the flowers were single

pansies with various combinations of purple, lavender and white with fringed edges. The flowers changed over time, sometimes with lavender stripes, sometimes solid purple, always beautiful. I tried to take leaf cuttings, but the plantlets did not bloom true, instead having lighter green leaves and white flowers with a thin fringed purple edge. Over the years, 'Purply' grew a neck resembling a palm tree and was rejuvenated and repotted many times. I almost lost it a couple of times, too. One time, I put it in the shade of a maple tree outside for a few weeks in the summer to allow it to heal and hopefully grow again. Unfortunately, recently I had to finally throw it away due to a pest problem. I did make sure I had a leaf growing first, even though it will bloom more plainly than before.

One of the favorite varieties I still grow is an unnamed, single pink dropper given to me by a late dear friend. She gave me a few others, some of which had girl foliage! Whenever it blooms, I think of her kindness.



Years passed, and I continued to grow violets, mostly from supermarkets or other retailers. Once the local Walmart had an unusual shipment of plants with color combinations and characteristics I had not seen before in stores. I can't remember if I brought any home, but it was a stimulating experience. I believe I attended my first violet show in Cincinnati and it was breathtaking! I came home with a chimera plant of 'Moonbeams' and a few other starts! I have not entered any of my plants in a show, as I did not believe any were symmetrical enough.



Later on I would become a member of AVSA and order from the commercial ads in the back. I would spend hours highlighting which ones caught my eye from the violet lists I requested by mail. Some of my favorites were the fantasies and other bicolors and especially the green edged and variegated varieties.

More recently, I found a beautiful Optimara Modesty several months ago at a local home improvement store. After removing the suckers and repotting it, the plant shaped very nicely! The pink variegated foliage is beautiful enough to grow it for that reason alone. I also purchased a plant of Opti-

mara myDarling with beautiful blue and white bicolor blooms. I have made many mistakes in growing violets through the years. I have learned that you should not be afraid to try growing different plants or using new techniques. Furthermore, share your love of violets with family and friends. Many people are afraid to grow them and just need some encouragement and culture tips. Violets are some of the easiest and most rewarding plants to grow!

Reference:

Optimara Field Identification Guide
<<http://optimara.com/optimarafieldguide.html>>

“Timeless Violets” from MAAVS



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Optimara myLove

Exhibited by: Leslie Swezey

Hybridized by: M. Holtkamp

Standard

The Violet Network

By Jennie Lawrence

Email: missjennae@yahoo.com

The Reed's Greenhouse website caught my eye when I was searching for a topic for this issue. While the greenhouse no longer sells plants of any kind, they still have a web presence, and what a presence it is.

Put together by Steven Reed, reference photos are in abundance on this website. The entire site is packed with valuable information and good photos to accompany the information. The four main tabs include: The Photo Archive; Info/Help and Everything Else; Tillandsia (Air Plants); Books; and Links.

One of the first tabs I clicked on was The Photo Archives. Under that were eleven different options for color photos including Chimeras, Greens, Lavenders, Pinks, Purples, Reds, Whites, Yellows, Others, Un-named, and Miscellaneous. Each color is adequately represented. For example, there are 24 Chimeras pictured, and 37 Greens. The photos are nicely done. I also like the fact that similar colors such as Lavender and Purple were separated.

There is also an impressive list of African violets by name in the Colors section. A different link under the Info/Help and Everything Else tab to me back to the AVSA. I clicked on the word "index" in the phrase, "The African Violet Photo Index of the AVSA Magazine." Not only were there many plants listed, but also the date their photo appeared in this magazine. This list was up to date through 2001.

Reed provides multiple links to the AVSA website, and they all work. This was not necessarily the case for all links. For example, a click on a link that was titled, "Another GREAT Leaf and Bloom type page with photos," resulted in the infamous 404 Not Found message.

Info/Help and Everything Else was exactly that. Reed has posted various videos. He discusses everything from his favorite potting mix to starting a leaf, and much more. There is a wealth of information under Videos and Tutorials. I cannot begin to cover everything under this main tab in this column, but I did pull out some highlights.



The Leaf Variety tab is incredible. There are great pictures, showing every possible variety. Ditto for the Leaf Problems. There are excellent photos showing different problems. A brief description of the problem is included, along with possible reasons or solutions. If I were having unrecognizable problems with a plant, this would probably be one of the first places I would go to try to remedy the problem. I would recommend this to anyone just starting out in the African violet world.

A tab for Petal Varieties was not as helpful. The pictures were quite small. My computer would not let me enlarge them. I was unable to read the information below each illustration.

The Bugs, Mites or Thrips selection is outstanding. The viewer will find information about Scale, Spider Mites, Springtails, Whiteflies, Aphids, Fungus Gnats and Mealy Bugs. There are some good photos by Janet Stromberg. Information about Material Safety Data Sheets for chemical solutions to problems and various remedies are discussed. One chemical solution that I found particularly interesting involved dog and cat flea collars. The directions said to stretch the collar to activate it, cut into one to two-inch strips, and to place the strips directly on the potting mix. I had not heard of this before and will do a little research before I try this.

A Vendor List is also included on this website. There is some outdated information on the list. For example, the Violet Showcase, in Denver, Colorado is no longer in business. Others are still going strong, however, like Travis Violets. If you are uncertain about a vendor, try calling or do a web search. This section was last updated at the end of February 2007.

The other type of plants included on this website were *Tillandsia*, commonly called Air Plants. There were brief care instructions, but no photos.

Even though some of the links on this site are non-existent, and the site has not been updated for some time, there is still a wealth of useful information and photos here. The site can be found at www.reedsgreenhouse.com

SK-Peizazsh v Tumane

Exhibited by:
Sharon Gartner
Hybridized by:
S. Kuznetsov
Semiminiature



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Primulina yungfuensis

Exhibited by:
Kathryn Spissman

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Rob's Scooter

Exhibited by: Kathy Lahti

Hybridized by: R. Robinson

Semiminiature

Misuse of Lysol and Physan

By Bruce Pearson

It absolutely amazes me how the use of Lysol and Physan are so commonly used in African Violet, and other plant groups as insecticides/algae-fungicides. THEY ARE NOT!! They are sterilants and designed to kill anything and everything alive. When very weak solutions or concentrations are used they do work, but there are much safer chemicals out there. They do a much better job and do not weaken or kill your plants in the process but attack the very pest you are combating. They are much easier on the environment and years of research have gone in to produce them. However, these too must be handled properly but are commonly misused.

First of all identify the problem. Fungicides kill fungus, not mites, thrips, caterpillars, fleas, ticks, cockroaches, mealy bugs, snails, gnats, houseflies, rats and mice. On African violets particular fungicides kill various fungus such as root rot, damping off, and powdery mildew. You must use the proper one for the job.

I love *Subdue Maxx* for controlling soil borne fungus such as damping off and root rot. I use 1 drop per quart of water, along with a few drops of dawn, anytime I stick a leaf into new soil or transplant using new untreated soil. It should not be used more than once in 6 months on the same soil pot. It is a drench not a spray and you give the pot a good drink **ONCE**. It will not work to control powdery mildew and foliar fungi. But what a job it does in increasing your chances of success when putting down new leaves.

There are many foliar fungicides out there, my favorite at the moment is Cleary's 3336 WP, but Captan, Diathane M45, Daconil, are others. Each one has different directions. All (I think) are administered as a spray. I use a few drops of Dawn soap in the spray as it helps spread the mist all over the plant.

Insecticides.... there are many, seldom needed with African violets. If so I like ones containing

Bifenthrin, but should be alternated with other "Flavors". And don't change the recipe. Use no stronger than directed and **it is not a good idea to combine ingredients**. Some are just not compatible, but worse the critters can and do become resistant. Alternating is not a good idea either. Use the same insecticide at least 3 times in the spray regime before switching to another unless the product is obviously not working.

Mites and Thrips (These are closer related to spiders than insects, and insecticides are not effective in combating them) Abamectin (Avid) (Lucid) and several other "brands" are excellent. I use and recommend 10 drops per quart along with a few drops of Dawn soap and thoroughly spray the plant and area. It should be used 3 times 7 days apart. Repeat this procedure 3 times using Abamectin if the problem reoccurs, then use another "Flavor" several times in a row, such as Spinosid (Conserve). This to avoid building up genetic resistance in the pest itself.

Although usually fungicides and insecticides can be mixed safely it is better and easier on your plant to combat one problem at a time. NEVER mix two different insecticides or miticides together, it may or may not work, but worse, any pest that survives has a much better chance of passing its genes to the next generation and building up resistance. This last sentence bears repeating 3 times in this short article.

NEVER mix two different insecticides or miticides together, it may or may not work, but worse, any pest that survives has a much better chance of passing its genes to the next generation and build up resistance.

For more information contact me directly:

Bruce Pearson

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www.Tropicalworldusa.com

TropicalWrld@gmail.com

Finding Violets on eBay

By Josh McKinney • Madison, AL

This article will discuss how to buy African violets on eBay. If there is a hard to find variety you would like to complement your collection, the best place to look is commercial AVSA vendors. They will usually have what you are seeking and for a more reasonable price. Sometimes, though, they may not have a specific rare or vintage violet. A good place to search is on eBay. There are many factors to consider, however.

First, is the weather the correct temperature to ship via the USPS? Most eBay vendors ship using the Post Office, thus ordering away from temperature extremes is the best idea. Some vendors will insulate and use heat packs in winter, but problems can occur if your box is delayed or if temperatures become too cold.

The second aspect to consider is whether you are comfortable with auction-purchasing or if you prefer Buy-it-Now. Auctioned violets on eBay are usually offered for several days (this can vary) and the starting price is set by the seller. Choose sellers that have a good feedback rating. Read the feedback and terms to see how issues are resolved. If you prefer plants or leaves, bid on whichever you choose. When searching for varieties, make sure you type African violet or Saintpaulia first, otherwise you may get numerous listings that don't pertain. If it is a Russian hybrid, try searching for the English translation of the name if nothing comes up for the given name. If you see that special hard to find violet or gesneriad, click (or touch on a mobile device) on the item and choose WATCH. If you have a question about a plant or cutting offered, ask the seller if your question is not addressed in the listing or terms of sale. Some will be able to respond more quickly, others may take a bit longer. If you bid when the auction has just begun, it will just increase the price. Wait until the auction is near the end and THEN submit your bid. Make sure you decide beforehand how much

you want to spend as eBay is designed to get buyers to spend more, not less on auction items. If your target price is 10.00 for the plant, be prepared to walk away if the price bids too high. Often the variety will be offered again, since violets are so easy to propagate.

Click on: [See other items](#) to browse a seller's inventory. Ordering from different sellers will result in a shipping fee for each one. If you see multiple items of interest, add them to your watch list and bid when the end of the auction nears. Be ready with alternates in cases where you aren't the winning bidder. It is usually good to buy several from the same seller to help spread out the shipping cost. Some sellers charge more, some less. It pays to compare.

Moreover, Buy-it-Now items are much preferable as the price is set and they are less time sensitive than auctioned ones. If you see something that interests you, click or touch **add to cart**. Items bought separately Choosing Buy-it-Now instead of add to cart will incur separate shipping fees! Some sellers will combine shipping; read their terms before buying.

When you receive your shipment, unpack it carefully upon receipt. If any plants are crushed or otherwise damaged, contact the seller. A few broken leaves or some spilled soil are not considered shipping damage. Plant any usable loose leaves in case the plant does not make it. Make sure to match the labels properly to their respective varieties. Isolate any new plants with plastic in your designated area.

Remember to leave positive feedback for the seller once you have planted your cuttings and put the plants on the shelf. If the seller offers both auction items and Buy-it-Now you can combine both formats. Just remember to add Buy-it-Now items to the cart after you win the auction(s) and then checkout. In cases where the auction takes

place over several days, you will likely need an invoice from the seller if they offer that option. That way, your shipping will be combined for plants

shipping together. eBay can be challenging and fun, just don't forget to be courteous, do your research, and set a budget for what you want to spend!



Are You Ready Yet...

By Candace Baldwin

For your first convention? After hearing about it from friends and seeing pictures of the amazing plants, designs and fun festivities in the AVM every year, you've decided to take the plunge and go. Congratulations! I know you'll have a good time and meet new friends.

If you haven't yet registered for the convention, you still can by downloading and completing the convention package available on the AVSA website. One of the questions you'll need to answer in the registration package is if you want to enter any plants or designs in the Show. I highly encourage you to do one or both.

Participating in the show at the national convention is an amazing experience. I know many people at their first convention shy away from the idea saying they just want to "go and see what it's like" before being an exhibitor. I felt the same way and was more than a little intimidated at the thought of entering at my first convention. I did it

anyway and am so glad I did. Having a goal to have at least one entry gave me a reason to spend more time with my plants!

I hold a First Time Attendees meeting on Wednesday afternoon where I review the different aspects of the convention. I'll cover things like explaining the different raffle tables, reviewing the souvenir convention booklet, giving insider tips and providing lots of time to meet other first timers and answer questions. Check for signs on Wednesday morning around the hallways and by registration for the time and location.

Take note - once you arrive at the convention, one of the first things you should do is to check in at the Registration Desk. There you will receive a package that contains various information about what you registered for, the souvenir convention booklet and other assorted items. Until then, feel free to contact me at aviolets@hotmail.com with any questions. See you in Buffalo!

Convention Show Awards

By Debbie K. McInnis

In past AVMs of 2017 some of you may have noticed that our AVSA president Richard Nicolas has assigned the Chair of Awards to me. This will be quite a learning experience to be on this side of receiving award money! I would like to take this time to thank all of you who have offered your generous support to the 2018 combined AVSA/AVSC Buffalo Convention Show Awards.

We have been receiving donations from some of our African Violet Clubs. Please, suggest and ask during your business meetings if your club would like to donate and offer their support to the Buffalo Convention Show Awards.

We have individual club members who, also, have donated to the Awards Fund. Many of you know the Convention Show Awards could not be possible without your help. Thank you, again. There are several of you who have donated in past years that we have, as yet, not heard from... It's not too late.

Some members have given a **specific** donation in remembrance of a special person who is no longer with us. Many AVSA members have donated **undesigned award money - to be used where needed** (I highly encourage this option) - for example; that undesigned award money could then, possibly, be assigned to a Best in Class exhibit. Make a note on the awards form, and undesigned award donations may also honor friends and beloved mentors. Award forms may be copied from www.avsa.org Convention page - Awards.

I know as a grower I always enjoyed looking at the awards listing to take note if I grew any of the violets that had a specific award assigned to it. And if I did have some of them I knew I'd be giving those violets a little extra attention and hope I'd be able to bring them to show.

I have never had all of the specific award violets. So, it would then be my goal, at the opening of the Sales Room; to search and seek. The specific varieties that I didn't have would be the first violets I would try and get my hands on -

hoping the vendors also knew, that as serious show growers, we would be trying to acquire these varieties.

Would you like to see more of those large, beautiful blooming streps at our convention show? Give our growers an **extra incentive** to pack and box them. I've heard they're not easy travelers. A bit troublesome to go the distance. But, you may see more of them if there were specific variety Strep awards...

There could be an endless amount of specific designated awards! Yes, maybe even an original ten - Yes, the original ten! The one you've been forever searching! Sailor Boy, for instance. Surely, someone out there must have it. And then, perhaps, because you donated for that specific award they would bring and enter Sailor Boy in the vintage class! Then, just maybe, they'd share a leaf...

I will continue to list specific variety awards. If you have the plants - bring them. If not this year; buy them in the sales room from our vendors. There is always next year to show.

Go to the **Convention page** on avsa.org where you may view the current listing of awards. There you may print out your awards form, to donate to Convention Show Awards. **Undesigned awards** to be used as needed for either amateur or commercial in horticultural or design **is most welcomed**. Please, fill out forms legibly and don't forget your email address or phone contact information. You may also send a check, only, in any amount of your choosing marked: **Buffalo Convention Show Awards**.

There will be a cutoff date; first week of April, to be listed in the souvenir book.

Please send all donations to:

AVSA Office

Convention Show Awards

2375 North St.

Beaumont, TX 77702-1722

Thank you

Debbie McInnis - Awards Chair



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

EK-Laskovyi Mai

Exhibited by: Debbie McInnis

Hybridized by: E. Korshunova

Standard

AV Council of Florida Show

October 30, 2017 • Photo Credit: Neil Lipson



Sunny Salmon (*Barbara Carnicelli*)



Wrangler's Dixie Celebration (*Phylliss King*)



Victorian Carousel (*Sharon Gartner*)



Omaha Thunder (*Sharon Gartner*)



Rob's Boolaroo (*Carolee Carter*)



Sister Sylvia (*Jerry Kast*)

Minis & Semiminiatures

By Kerry Knight

These are the small growing variety of the Saintpaulia family or more commonly referred to as "minis or semi-minis". They are the ideal plant for growers with limited space and considering their size; they can provide an enormous amount of satisfaction when successfully grown. Their size makes them ideal for windowsills. If you choose to use this method you will probably find that a window facing east or with a southerly aspect is preferable. You will also have to protect your plants from the hot sun and cold winter nights. The more direct light that you have available for your plants, the better chance of having a good display of flowers. Keep in mind that you will have to rotate your plant by a quarter of a turn every couple of days to keep it symmetrical. They also grow very well under lights. Care and culture of these plants is very much the same as for the standard size plants.

Miniatures should not measure more than 15cm (6") in diameter and should be in a 6cm pot.

Semi-miniatures should not be more than 20cm (8") in diameter and should be in a pot no larger than 7.5cm.

I grow my entire minis and semi-minis under lights with the top of the foliage being approximately 15cm from the tubes. I care for them the same as I do for my standard plants. I propagate by putting two leaves in a pot and covering them either in a zip lock bag or in a propagating box then separating them once baby plantlets appear. This is roughly when they are 2cm in height and only use the stronger plantlets. I will often then place them in a propagating box to lessen the effect of transplant shock. This depends a lot on the time

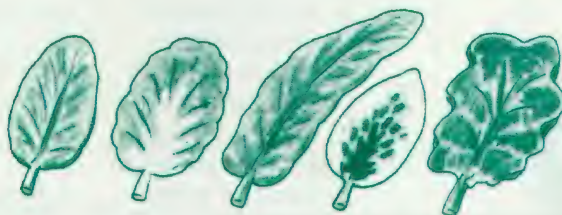
of the year and temperature. I do not start fertilizing for several weeks preferring to use warm water only and they usually take off well once separated from the mother leaf. I endeavor to re-pot my minis and semi-mini's twice a year and all are wick watered and fertilized using quarter strength fertilizer. If you are re-potting during the winter months and your home is heated you should not experience any problems, but keep an eye on them crown rot can sometimes be a problem during this time.

It is best to check for side shoots when watering and remove them at an early stage, unless of course you wish to propagate from the plant or you are lucky enough to have one of the few chimeras around. The newer varieties are not as prone to suckering however some still do.

There are numerous advantages to growing these lovely plants and to name a few you can have a lot more in your collection, they take up less space, there are lots to choose from, they sell well at the show and they mature a lot quicker, which means that if you start growing one or several now you may be able to enter one or several in the show. When it comes to the show the only down side to entering mini's and semi-mini's, is that there are not the number of sections for entries as there are for standard plants, but don't let this put you off.

If you haven't grown these "beauties" before, why not give them a go; I am sure you will be pleasantly surprised!

From the *Newsletter of the Early Morn AV Group*



Tally Time 2017

Susan Anderson • 4040 E. Maldonado Dr. • Phoenix, AZ 85042
www.avsa.org/tallytime • tallytime@avsa.org

The 2017 Tally Time annual report is a summary of the African violet varieties and species receiving the greatest number of awards in AVSA Standard Shows throughout the past year. This year's report summarizes results of 58 shows across six geographic regions. A total of 375 different African violet varieties were recorded in Tally Time this year. Statistically, as the pool of hybrids expands, it becomes ever more challeng-

ing for individual varieties to lead the list of winners. Yet, several varieties continue to bring home top awards, proving they are reliable show plants.

Thanks to all participating affiliates for submitting reports. Save time and postage by entering show results online at www.avsa.org/tallytime. To have winners included in the annual summary, please submit the Tally Time report by November 20th. Enjoy growing and showing!

	Total Number of Awards	Number Best In Show	Number Second Best	Variety, Hybridizer, Registration No.	Number of Collection Awards	Best Standard, Semi, Mini, Trailer or Species
STANDARDS	9	0	0	Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler P. Hancock #8745	6	3
	8	1	1	Jersey Snow Flakes R. Kurzynski #9820	3	3
	7	1	0	Buckeye Seductress P. Hancock #9669	3	3
	6	1	0	Buckeye Nostalgia P. Hancock #10484	4	1
	6	0	0	Harbor Blue T. Weber #6174	5	1
				Ness' Crinkle Blue D. Ness #8136	7	3
SEMIMIINIATURES	10	0	0	Thunder Surprise S. Sanders #9024	3	3
	8	0	2	Rob's Fuddy Duddy R. Robinson #7886	3	2
	7	1	1	Rob's Slap Happy R. Robinson #9040	1	2
	5	2	0	Jolly Frills H. Pittman #9907	2	2
	5	1	0	Ness' Cranberry Swirl D. Ness #8135	2	2
	5	0	1	Jolly Mischief H. Pittman #9911	3	1
	5	0	1	Rob's Outer Orbit R. Robinson #8738	4	0
				Jolly Orchid H. Pittman #9719	9	5
	17	2	1	Precious Red H. Pittman #9724	3	5
MINIATURES	12	3	1	Rob's Chilly Willy R. Robinson #9461	2	4
	7	0	1	Windsome H. Pittman #10116	3	2
	6	1	0	Rob's Jitterbug R. Robinson #8876	3	2
	6	0	1	Shirl's Hawaiian Lei S. Sanders #9372	0	4
	5	0	1			

	Total Number of Awards	Number Best In Show	Number Second Best	Variety, Hybridizer, Registration No.	Number of Collection Awards	Best Standard, Semi, Mini, Trailer or Species
TRAILERS	10	0	2	Rob's Boolaroo R. Robinson #8053	0	8
	4	1	0	Rob's Gundaroo R. Robinson #9294	0	3
	4	1	0	Rob's Humpty Doo R. Robinson #8456	0	3
SPECIES	22	2	2	S 8 clone <i>rupicola</i>	7	11
	11	0	0	S 5c1 clone <i>ionantha</i>	6	5
	9	1	0	S 5a clone <i>grandifolia</i> No. 237	3	5
	9	1	0	S 5c1 clone <i>tongwensis</i>	5	3
	6	1	0	S 5c2 clone <i>diplotricha</i> Parker	1	4
	6	0	0	S 5b clone <i>confusa</i> Mather E	2	4
	6	0	0	S 5b clone <i>confusa</i>	5	1

Geographic Region, State/Province (Number of Shows):

- Region I:** Arizona (2), California (5), Colorado (1), New Mexico (1), Oregon (1)
Region II: Illinois (1), Iowa (1), Minnesota (2), Missouri (4), Nebraska (1), Ohio (3), Wisconsin (2)
Region III: Connecticut (1), Delaware (1), Massachusetts (1), New Jersey (5), New York (5),
Pennsylvania (2), Virginia (3)
Region IV: Arkansas (1), Louisiana (1), Oklahoma (1), Texas (5)
Region V: Alabama (1), Florida (2), Georgia (1), Tennessee (1)
Region VI: Nova Scotia (1), Ontario (2)

The following table lists the award winners by geographic region

		Total Number of Awards	Geographic Regions					
Variety			I	II	III	IV	V	VI
STANDARDS	Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler	9	1	2	5	1	-	-
	Jersey Snow Flakes	8	-	4	1	3	-	-
	Buckeye Seductress	7	2	3	1	-	1	-
	Buckeye Nostalgia	6	-	-	2	4	-	-
	Harbor Blue	6	-	-	4	1	1	-
SEMIMINIATURES	Ness' Crinkle Blue	10	4	3	1	2	-	-
	Thunder Surprise	8	3	-	3	1	1	-
	Rob's Fuddy Duddy	7	-	3	1	-	3	-
	Rob's Slap Happy	5	-	2	1	-	2	-
	Jolly Frills	5	-	4	1	-	-	-
	Ness' Cranberry Swirl	5	-	-	5	-	-	-
	Jolly Mischief	5	1	1	-	3	-	-
	Rob's Outer Orbit	5	1	1	-	3	-	-
MINIATURES	Jolly Orchid	17	-	6	6	3	2	-
	Precious Red	12	3	7	-	-	2	-
	Rob's Chilly Willy	7	1	1	4	1	-	-
	Windsome	6	1	4	1	-	-	-
	Rob's Jitterbug	6	-	5	-	1	-	-
	Shirl's Hawaiian Lei	5	-	-	2	3	-	-
TRAILERS	Rob's Boolaroo	10	1	2	6	-	1	-
	Rob's Gundaroo	4	-	-	1	-	1	2
	Rob's Humpty Doo	4	-	3	1	-	-	-
SPECIES	S 8 clone <i>rupicola</i>	22	4	8	7	3	-	-
	S 5c1 clone <i>ionantha</i>	11	2	3	3	2	-	1
	S 5a clone <i>grandifolia</i> No. 237	9	-	2	5	-	2	-
	S 5c1 clone <i>tongwensis</i>	9	-	1	7	-	-	1
	S 5c2 clone <i>diplotricha</i> Parker	6	-	1	1	2	-	2
	S 5b clone <i>confusa</i> Mather E	6	-	-	3	3	-	-
	S 5b clone <i>confusa</i>	6	-	1	2	2	1	-
Number of Winners		226	24	67	74	38	17	6
Number of Shows Reported		58	10	14	18	8	5	3

A Family Portrait

By Paul Kroll

4325 Two Rod Road • East Aurora, NY 14052

Email: pfkroll@roadrunner.com

Episcia 'Pink Smoke'

One of the very first plants to capture my attention as a youngster was an *Episcia*. The plant grew happily on a coffee table in bright light. It was a red-foliage plant and I thought that the patterning on its leaves reminded me of the patterns I loved to look at though my kaleidoscope. Now you know I'm dating myself!

Episcias grow in large patches as a ground cover in their native habitats. They sprawl and "creep" by putting out runners that are correctly called stolons. They are often exhibited in AVSA and Gesneriad Society shows and are always a popular exhibit. There are a number of *Episcia* species and many hybrids available. Some of the most popular are the varieties that feature a pink and white and green foliage pattern: E. 'Cleopatra', E. 'Pink Brocade', E. 'Unpredictable Valley', etc.

One of my favorites, relatively new on the scene, is *Episcia* 'Pink Smoke'. This variety was exhibited at the 2007 GS convention in Miami, Florida by Glenn Barnes. It is described in the Gesneriad Society's *Episcia* Register as "dusky pink and green variegation, with pink flowers". Marcia Belisle's Violet House catalog described it as, "rose pink and grey



green leaves with pink flowers; unusual and unique".

Episcias love warmth and humidity. Temperatures below 50 degrees can be fatal. Many of the varieties featuring the pink/white/green patterning need the extra humidity of a domed container. They may be entered in shows and exhibited in that dome with the

understanding that the dome may be removed for judging and then replaced. I grow the plant illustrated here in a domed container on the top shelf of a plant stand so that it benefits from the extra heat in that elevated location. If you have not tried growing *Episcias*, you may wish to give them a try. They propagate easily and quickly from the stolons or crowns. Most are good

bloomers, if given the proper conditions. They can be entered in the classes that are specifically for gesneriads grown for ornamental qualities other than bloom since their foliage has many of those qualities required in those classes.

The photo here was taken by Mel Grice at the October 2017 New York State AVS convention show in Albany, New York.

(The plant was removed from its dome for the photograph)





Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Cajun's Zydeco

Exhibited by: Belinda Thibodeaux

Hybridized by: B. Thibodeaux

Large Standard

Biography about my African Violet History

By Doğan Uygun (Menekşecibaba) İzmir-Türkiye

I was in search of the stress of years of confusion among the concrete buildings of the city where I lived on a summer evening of the year, and the work of stationery I had been working for many years had started to give me trouble.

Dealing with soil in a house with garden, raising animals and plants is my biggest dream since I was little. Time has passed quickly; boring business life has always been an obstacle to realizing this ideal.

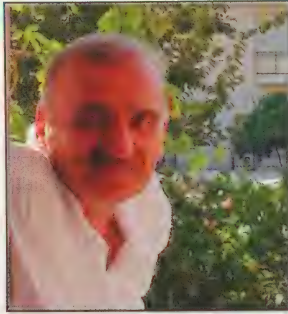
I felt a sweet call when I was stuck in my workshop. The African violet brought by a friend who came to my workshop on that day was almost calling me. Suddenly I realize how attractive, beautiful and effective that flower was.



I was a forest engineer but I have never done my job, but in my youth years I have been involved in floriculture and greenhouse work for several years. Years later I discovered this fascinating flower, which I did not notice in many plants at that time.

The house with garden is hard to reach, but I thought I could bring the garden to the house and workplace. As I started looking for, I collected all kinds of violets from florists, from all the acquaintances in circulation. Initially I had 10-15 varieties. Then I started to go around all the big grocery stores and all the flower gardens in my area. I was constantly searching for new varieties. The varieties I found were around 30-40 and they were usually single-story and classic colors.

I started to search on the internet. I especially



noticed that the USA and Russia had a very different view on this issue. When I saw thousands of new great varieties, I lost my sleep over it. I think about those day and night. There were a few forums and sites in Turkey, but it was quite inadequate. I went into search of bringing abroad. From Mr.

Lady Robs, Violet Barn, Mr. Paul Sorano, Cedar Creek; I got to a lot of new kinds with great difficulties and material losses. They took 15 days to reach me and I was trying to save those rotting leaves that I could get with great difficulty from the customs. These have brought me great happiness. It was unbearable to follow their childlike development and wait for the blooming process. I had a brand new love at the age of retirement.

After a while, these things has not sufficed to me. In the meantime, I made friends who have been having



the same love around the world: USA, Russia, Canada, Ukraine, China, and Germany etc.

As a result of many researches and observations I have started hybrid to get new species. This is what gave me new excitement; a brand new lane, which demands patience and experience. I started slowly getting results. I have more than 100 new jobs that I started in 2012 and they all have a new beginning for me.

Passion, knowledge and experience of African violets; In the meantime, sharing and spreading on my internet pages gives me pleasure.

I go to work early in the morning and I prepare my tea, then the paradise that I build between the concrete blocks falls and forgets all my troubles. I would recommend it to all those who have been sick. Goodbye, stay with happiness.

The Dallas Metro African Violet Society

Will present their Spring Show and Sale

“AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL”

Friday and Saturday, March 30 & 31, 2018

10:00 to 4:00 each day open to the public

Workshops each day at 11:00 and 2:00

Many varieties of African Violets and the

Other Gesneriads of all types.

Public Invited - No Charge

North Haven Gardens

7700 Northaven Road

Dallas, TX 75230

AVSA DONATION FUND LEVELS



Thumbprint (Under \$25)



Geneva (\$100-\$499)



Two-Tone (\$25-\$49)



Fantasy (\$500-\$999)



Multicolor (\$50-\$99)



Chimera (Over-\$1000)

Article Contest Update

By Pat Hancock

Photo Credit: Kathy Hajner and David Harris

This month, I would like to introduce two more hybridizers who will supply part of the prizes for the 2018 Contest.

Kathy Hajner has been growing violets since 1976. She grows both small Standards and Semiminiatures.

Kathy made her first seedpod at age twelve. She hybridizes both solid and variegated foliage, and is working to achieve a different shaped blossom type; one with longer lower petals.



K's Freedom



Kay's Lilac Infusion



Kay's Lilac Confusion

So far, her favorite hybrids are '*Kay's Lilac Infusion*,' and '*Kay's Lilac Confusion*.' She will provide leaves of her new hybrids to the three Contest winners.

David Harris is well-known for his lovely miniature *Sinningias*. He started growing African violets in 1989 and joined AVSA in 1992. Two of his first favorites were '*Yesterday's Love*,' (Russel) and '*Windy Day*,' (Stork).

In 1994, he attended his first show, and met Linda Hall. He received a lot of "*Sinningia* knowledge," and help from Linda, and in 1996 made his first cross. (A-2 seedling). He took it to the Missouri Valley convention, and donated it to the auction. The bidding went up to \$90.00. The seedling was named '*Ozark Coral Freckles*.'

David has hybridized forty-five Miniature *Sinningias* to date.

We need more original articles for our AVM, so get writing and be a winner of some of these great violets and other Gesneriads - with your help, our AVM will be great!



Sinningia 'Ozark Double Dip'



Sinningia 'Ozark Fireworks'



Sinningia 'Ozark Double Dreams'



Sinningia 'Ozark Red Lightning'



Sinningia 'Ozark Pink Sunrise'



Sinningia 'Ozark Rosy Cheeks'

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO AVSA BYLAWS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following proposed amendments to the AVSA Bylaws Article V Nominations and Elections will be voted on at the AVSA 2018 Annual Convention in Buffalo, NY.

Mary Lou Harden
Chair, AVSA Bylaws Committee
Sue Ramser
Ruth Goeke
Bob Green
Lynne Wilson
Christel Collier

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE V OF AVSA BYLAWS

NOTE: New language is shown in **red**.

Current AVSA Bylaws:

ARTICLE V Nominations and Elections Section 5

Nominating Committee

1. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five (5) members. One member, who shall be chair, shall be elected by the Executive Committee from among the members of the previous year's committee. The remaining four (4) members shall be elected by the Board of Directors. No more than one (1) Past President shall serve on the committee, and no two (2) members shall be from the same state. No member, except the chair, shall serve consecutive terms on the committee and the chair shall not serve consecutive terms as chair.
2. The chair of the Nominating Committee shall be elected by the Executive Committee prior to the annual convention. Election of the other members shall be by nomination from the floor

at the first meeting of the Board of Directors during the annual convention. The term of the committee shall begin upon election.

3. The chair of the Nomination Committee shall:
 - a. Maintain a file of potential officer and director candidates that shall be used during the committee's term.
 - b. Turn over all files to the succeeding chair.
4. The committee shall:
 - a. Select one (1) nominee for each office to be filled (i.e., President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) from a list of those having served at least two (2) years on the Board of Directors.
 - b. Select five (5) nominees for Director from the file maintained by the Nominating Committee Chair, attempting to maintain geographic balance among all Directors.
 - c. Submit the slate to the President in sufficient time so that the membership is notified forty-five (45) days before the annual business meeting.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE V, Section 5:

ARTICLE V Section 5

Nominating Committee

1. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five (5) members.
 - a. One member, who shall be chair, shall be elected by the Executive Committee from among the members of the previous year's committee;
 - b. The remaining four (4) members, who shall be elected by the Board of Directors, shall come from different geographical areas;
 - c. No more than one (1) Past President shall serve on the committee, and no member,

except the chair, shall serve consecutive terms on the committee; and

d. The chair shall not serve consecutive terms as chair.

2. The chair of the Nominating Committee shall be elected by the Executive Committee prior to the annual convention. Election of the other members shall be by nomination from the floor at the first meeting of the Board of Directors during the annual convention. The term of the committee shall begin upon election.

3. The chair of the Nominating Committee shall:

- Maintain a file of potential officer and director candidates that shall be used during the committee's term.

- Turn over all files to the succeeding chair.

4. The **Nominating Committee** shall:

- Select one (1) nominee for each office to be

filled (i.e., President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) from a list of those having served at least two (2) years on the Board of Directors.

- Select five (5) nominees for Director from the file maintained by the Nominating Committee Chair, maintaining geographic balance among all Directors.**

- Submit the slate to the President in sufficient time so that the membership is notified forty-five (45) days before the annual business meeting.

Rationale: To assure that there is regional representation among members of the Nominating Committee, as well as Director nominees.

“Timeless Violets” from MAAVS



Ness’ Angel Glitter

Exhibited by:

Barbara Greenawalt

Hybridized by:

D. Ness

Semiminiature

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



In Memory

June Swift

We were saddened to learn that June Swift (formally of Swift's Violets, Dallas, TX) passed away January 5, 2018. June was the last charter member of the First Nighter African Violet Society of Dallas, TX. She was an active member until a few years ago when she was made an Honorary Member. She still participated in club sales where she would explain how to use the Swift Moist-Rite planter, a self watering planter that she and husband, Jack, designed many years ago. June and Jack received AVSA's Bronze Medal in 1980.

June was a commercial member of AVSA for many years and was a frequent winner of "Best Commercial Display Table" in the sixties and seventies when there were eight or more display tables in convention shows. In many of those shows she was competing with her two sisters, Charlene, of Reed's House of Violets and Phles, of Warren's Violets.

June hybridized over 500 African violets. Some of her best-known hybrids were "French Lilac", "Cotton Bowl", 'Whisper Rose', and "Dumplin." Dumplin' is still seen in shows today. June was loved and will truly be missed.

On a personal note, June was Bill Foster's mentor and dear friend for 53 years.

Virginia Coester

The Puget Sound lost a very special member last April. Virginia was past President of the Seattle African Violet Society and the Saintpaulia Society of Tacoma. While she was very good at those jobs where she excelled was in her role of Hospitality Chair. She was first to meet and greet new members, guests or even just those people who stuck their nose in the door. Rarely did that great big grin leave her face. She was only able to go to one Convention in Austin but she made friends instantly. She rarely showed any plants but she

grew some goodies. She has been missed and we are less without her.

Marion Hamtil - 98 Years of Life

On March 2, 1919, a wonderful flower lover was born. Her name was Marion Hamtil. Marion loved flowers of all kinds during her entire life. As a child, her mother would buy her packets of flower seeds to sow in their front yard. A flower's beauty always brought Marion so much enjoyment!

At age 25, while visiting the Missouri Botanical Garden with her husband, Fran, Marion came upon her first African Violet Show and was forever after bitten by the "African Violet Bug". Fran was a great support to Marion and her new interest. He not only encouraged Marion to join one of the local clubs, he even built her a homemade plant stand.

When Marion joined her first African violet club, there were more than twenty different clubs in the St. Louis region to choose from. Marion first decided upon joining the Cinderella African Violet Club (AVC), but later switched to the Amethyst AVC in 1973 where she remained a member ever since.

Marion accomplished many things in the African violet world. Her most noteworthy accomplishment, which many may not realize, is that Marion was the first AVSA member to become a Master Judge!

Although Marion was never an AVSA president or officer, she did participate in many local councils and clubs. From 1963 to 1965, Marion was president of the Metropolitan St. Louis African Violet Council. She was also an adamant AVSA convention attendee with the 2017 AVSA Convention in Orlando, Florida, being her last one.

As an African violet grower, Marion won many awards for her plants. But in the design division that was not to be the case according to a story she once told. Her career in designs ended with her first

design when an earthworm popped up out of a piece of sod she had used!

Marion loved and lived for African violets. She always had a smile for every person she met at violet meetings and conventions. Almost everyone knew Marion and especially enjoyed watching her at the sales table. Teasingly, people would say "If you did not buy plants before Marion arrived, there would not be many left when she was finished".

Although Marion's health was failing in her later years, she was blessed with a wonderful memory. Marion was a fantastic resource for information regarding early hybridizers and could always be counted upon to remember those hybridizers and the plants they were known for.

Recently, Marion was quite thrilled when her friend, hybridizer Ronn Nadeau, named one of his new hybrids after her.



*Marion Hamtil
(10847) 07/18/2016
(R. Nadeau)
Semidouble-double
lavender two-tone
ruffled star/darker
eye, rays. Medium
green, quilted,
hairy, ruffled,
wavy, serrated.
Standard*

Interestingly, many people may not know that Marion and her husband loved to race Hackney ponies at local State Fairs. But with failing health, their pony racing, along with a one acre yard and large flower gardens, soon all came to end.

Marion had a stroke in 2008. However, a few years later, in 2010, Martha and Dan Nix made the decision to take Marion and her husband into their home where they could care for Marion and Fran themselves.

After Marion's husband passed away in 2012, Marion's African violet hobby soon took off for a second time. With the help of Martha and Dan, Marion was able to begin attending meetings and conventions once again. Her love for violets grew. By the time Marion passed away on October 31, 2017, she "helped" the Nix household to acquire around 300 African violets... and Marion still wanted more!

Marion taught others many valuable lessons about growing old. The number one thing is to love African violets and never give up when you encounter problems. But most of all, Marion taught others to love all friends. African violet friends are a special group of people with so much to share.

Marion will be missed by all.

AVSA – Building Maintenance Fund

Susan Hapner - Chairman • 12916 Midfield Terrace • St. Louis, MO 63146
December 1, 2017 – January 31, 2018



Thumbprint - Under \$25

Linda D. Schuessler
Beverly Geary
Samira James
Jim Schrader
TriState AV Council

*In lieu of judging expenses for
Susan Arnao & Marianne Gershon*

Joseph Meyer
Bonnie Harris



Two-Tone - \$25-\$49

Marcia Jacobs
In memory of Marion Hamtil
Marcia Jacobs
In memory of Barry Hapner



Multicolor - \$50-\$99

Kathy Bell



Geneva - \$100-\$499

Linda J. Sumski



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Primulina ophiopogoides

Exhibited by: Ronald Davidson

Jolly Wit's End

Exhibited by:
Anne Nicholas
Hybridized by:
H. Pittman
Semiminiature



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Jolly Devil

Exhibited by:
Debbie McInnis
Hybridized by:
H. Pittman
Semiminiature

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

The Aggie Method of Leaf Propagation - and This is No Joke

By Sylvia Leeds • Quinlan, TX

Did you hear the one about the Aggie farmer who couldn't raise chickens? He planted the eggs too deep!

Well, that's how dumb I often feel when trying to grow violets from leaves. While many of my violet friends grow beautiful floriferous plants from leaves, mine usually wilt, dry up or die of natural causes before producing babies.

Before the lectures begin about conditions, soil mixes, leaf quality and other probable causes for propagation failure, let me assure you that I have tried many of these methods, many of which have been miserable failures.

Jerry Seinfeld once said, "I have no plants in my house. They won't live for me. Some of them don't even wait to die. They commit suicide!" Well, maybe that's been my problem. Suicidal leaves!

Texas A&M University, through agricultural research, has contributed greatly to improve peoples' lives in Texas, across the nation, and all over the world. This research has also positively impacted horticulture by including another method of growing violets from leaves.

A while back, I joined the Texas Master Gardener Program and learned this "new" method. So far, it has worked for me each time. It has its drawbacks, but I recommend it if the method you are currently using does not always work.

You will need the following supplies: a Styrofoam cup, coarse perlite, medium vermiculite, a sharpened pencil, a plastic tub or container, flat stick or plastic spoon to help prop up the leaf, a small plastic pot and an African Violet leaf.

Step 1. Using your sharpened pencil, place a row of holes approximately 1/2 inch apart around the center of the Styrofoam cup, about halfway between the top and the bottom. In addition, punch about four evenly spaced holes around the bottom rim of the cup.



Step 2. Fill the bottom half of the cup, up to the row of holes, with coarse perlite. Fill the remainder of the cup with medium vermiculite.



Step 3. Cut the African Violet leaf at an angle with approximately 1 1/2 inch of petiole remaining. If you wish you may dip the base of the leaf cutting into rooting powder.



Step 4. Place the Styrofoam cup into the plastic tub or container filled with about 1 1/2 inches of water. As the water is absorbed into the perlite and vermiculite, place the petiole on the vermiculite and the cutting will literally be sucked into the vermiculite. Place the stick or plastic spoon handle into the vermiculite to help stabilize the leaf.



Step 5. Place the cup with the water reservoir in a bright, non-sunny window or under fluorescent lights. Continue to add water to the reservoir as necessary to keep the water level just below the middle row of holes on the Styrofoam cup. In six to eight weeks plantlets will appear at the base of the petiole.

Step 6. When the plantlets have formed three or four well-developed leaves, use a sharp knife or razor blade to cut them (with roots attached) free from the leaf and transplant into individual containers filled with a loose potting media.



From this point, begin growing and grooming so you will have beautiful entries for the next show.

And there you have it. The no-joke Aggie way of growing leaves.

And don't be surprised, after using this method, you tell your friends.

"My husband said he would leave me if I got any more plants. Dang. I'm going to miss that man!"





African Violet Terms

By Dorothy Kosowsky



ANTHER: One or more sacks, which contain the pollen.

AXIL: The angle formed at the juncture of the petiole and the main stem.

BLOOM STALK: Peduncle, pedicel, petal, etc.

PEDUNCLE: Located near the crown of the plant, the peduncles develop between the leaves bearing the flower clusters. It is the stalk that supports a flower cluster.

PEDICEL: The stem that supports the buds or blossoms in a bloom cluster.

PETAL: The individual segments of a bloom.

BELL: Single blossoms with a bell shape.

CHIMERA: Blossoms with stripes that radiate from the center, pinwheel.

DOUBLE: Blossoms with at least two layers of petals.

FANTASY: Blossoms are splotched, streaked, or rayed with contrasting color or deeper shade of the same color. The blossoms can be of any kind or shape.

FRILLED: Blossoms have heavily serrated or frilled outer lobes. The blossoms can be any kind or shape.

EDGED: Blossoms can be any shape. Lobes of the blossoms are edged with any color.

GENEVA OR GENEVA EDGED: Lobes of the blossoms are edged with white.

MULTICOLOR: Blossoms with two or more colors.

SEMIDOUBLE: Blossoms that possess more than the standard five lobes, such as those blossoms with a crest or tuft at the center, but less than a full second row of petals.

SINGLE: Blossoms have five lobes, appear single, and with two upper lobes that are usually smaller than the three lower ones.

STAR: Blossoms have five lobes of about equal size and distance from one another. The blossoms can be single, semi-double, or double.

TWO-TONE: Blossoms having two or more shades of one color.

WASP: Blossoms are single and each lobe is very narrow.

CALYX: The cup-like base of a blossom. This external part is usually green in contrast to the inner showy portion composed of colored petals.

PETIOLE: The stem, which attaches the leaf to the main stem.

PISTIL: This is the seed-bearing female portion of the flower and consists of ovaries, style, and stigma.

POLLEN: The fertile yellow powder, released from the anther.

SEPAL: Individual segments, similar to petals, covering the bloom, part of the calyx.

STAMEN: A stalk or filament bearing an anther at its tip to hold the pollen.

STIGMA: A sticky receptive surface to which pollen adheres.

STYLE: This elevates the stigma into a favorable position for pollen collection.

OVARY: At the base of the pistil in which the seed develops.

FOLIAGE TYPES: Besides color the shapes of the leaves are also distinctive.

COMPOUND, WASP, BUSTLE, OR PIGGYBACK: Leaves are compound with one large and two smaller lobes.

GIRL: Deeply scalloped leaves usually rounded or heart-shaped with white to yellow marking at the base of each leaf.

HOLLY: Heavily crested leaves with the leaf edges curled forward or bent back with exaggerated wavy edges resembling holly in form.

LONGIFOLIA OR SPIDER: Narrow pointed strap-like leaves with either plain or wavy edges.

PLAIN OR TAILORED: Plain in texture and form; it is sometimes known as standard or boy foliage.

POINTED: Ends of the leaves come to a definite point.

QUILTED: Leaves have distinct raised areas between the veins. Some leaves have pie-crust edging.

RUFFLED, FRILLED, WAVY, OR FLUTED: Leaves have serrated or ragged edges.

SPOONED, OVATE, CUPPED-UP: Leaves are concave with high edges like a spoon.

SUPREME: Leaves are thick, hairy, and quilted with strong pencil-like petioles.

VARIEGATED FOLIAGE

VARIEGATED: Leaves (in addition to shades of green) can be marked with white, cream, light yellow, or rosy shades from light pink to a deep wine red. This defines all variegation other than Crown or Mosaic variegation

CROWN VARIEGATION: Formerly called Champion variegation. This variegation is usually restricted to the center or crown of the plant and turns green as it progresses to the outer layers of the foliage.

MOSAIC VARIEGATION: Formerly called Lilian Jarrett variegation. It is a mosaic pattern over the whole leaf.

TOMMIE LOU VARIEGATION: This was one of the first and most distinctive types, occurring primarily on the edge of the leaf and is now referred to as just variegated.

AVSA: African Violet Society of America

AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE: Also referred to as AVM

MASTER LIST: The AVML is a series of volumes listing all registered and many non-registered varieties.

AVSA HANDBOOK FOR JUDGES & EXHIBITORS: This handbook contains the rules and regulations for African violet shows, judges, judging, plus other valuable information for exhibitors.

ACID SOIL: Soil that has a pH of less than 7.0.

ALKALINE SOIL: Soil that has a pH greater than 7.0.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHT: Light other than that provided by the sun.

CAPILLARY ACTION: The movement of water upward either by a wick or matting in contact with the plant container.

CHLOROPHYLL: The green pigment found in the chloroplasts, necessary in the absorption of light for use in photosynthesis.

CHROMOSOME: Microscopic, rod-like structure composed of individual units (genes), which pass on the plant's characteristics.

CONDITION: The cultural appearance of an exhibit at the time of judging.

CROWN: The head of the plant above the soil line. African violets are described as having single or multiple crowns.

CULTIVAR: A plant altered from the species through cultivation by man, either through hybridizing or mutation. Through common usage, the word "cultivar" and "variety" are interchangeable.

DISBUDDING: Removal of the flower buds or bud stems in order to delay blooming for a later time.

DIVISION: The cutting or gently pulling apart of a plant having two or more crowns.

DOUBLE POTTING: The placement of a plant, still in its smaller pot, within a larger pot with the space between the two pots filled with soil mix.

SLIP POTTING: Placing a plant into a clean pot of the same size to hide any disfigurement or dirt on the pot.

DRENCH: To wet to the point of saturation.

FERTILIZER: An enriching material used in soil (or soilless mix) to increase its productivity.

MAJOR FERTILIZER ELEMENTS: Nitrogen, Phosphorous, and Potassium.

SECONDARY ELEMENTS: Sulfur, Calcium, and Magnesium.

FLARED-TOP POT: A pot designed with an extended lip that serves as an additional support to the foliage.

FLORIFEROUSNESS: The quantity of bloom on a plant.

FOLIAGE: The leaves of a plant collectively.

HUMIDITY: The ratio of water vapor held in the air, beneficial to plant growth.

HYBRID: A plant grown from seed as a result of breeding or cross-pollinating.

HYBRIDIZATION: Using the pollen from one African violet and transferring it to the stigma of another violet to obtain seed.

HYBRIDIZER: One who breeds or cross-pollinates plants.

LEACH: To pour a quantity of plain water through the soil of a plant to flush away accumulated fertilizer salts and neutralize alkali build-up.

LEAF CUTTING: A leaf, plus a portion of the petiole, cut from a plant and used for propagating purposes.

MUTANT OR SPORT: Plants that have developed new features not seen in the parent plant. This can occur naturally or be chemically induced.

NECK: A plant that has lost leaves from the lower portion of the plant exposing the main stalk above the potting mixture.

PASTEURIZE: To raise the temperature of the soil or potting mix (or one of the components thereof) to 180 degrees F. and maintain that temperature for 30 minutes.

PATHOGEN: Any agent that causes disease; a virus or a microorganism such as a bacterium or fungus.

PHOTOSYNTHESIS: The production of food in plants through a complex chemical reaction involving light, water, and carbon dioxide.

PROGENY: The offspring of any type of cross.

PLANTLET: An immature plant; either still on the "mother" leaf or potted individually.

PLANT TYPES: Miniature, Semiminiature, Single-crown, Standard, and Trailer.

PROPAGATE: To produce, or cause to produce, new plants.

ROOTED CLUMP: A term used by commercial growers referring to a group of plantlets attached to the leaf cutting (mother leaf).

ROSETTE: A cluster of leaves radiating symmetrically from a central stem.

SEEDLING: A plant grown from seed.

SPECIES: A subdivision of the genus *Gesneriaceae*, i.e. *Saintpaulia*.

SPHAGNUM MOSS: A long-fibered moss in a less decomposed state than that of sphagnum peat moss. It is often used in its natural, unmilled state as a growing medium for plants in hanging baskets.

STARTER PLANTS: Immature plants in small pots (usually 2 1/2") are sometimes referred to as "starter plants" by commercial growers.

STEM: The main stalk or trunk of a plant.

SUCKER: The beginning of a new plant, which forms near the base of a plant or in the lower axils.

SYSTEMIC: A chemical substance which, when absorbed by plant tissue, causes the tissue to be poisonous to certain pests and diseases. Soil drenching is the usual method of induction.

SYMMETRY: The degree of perfect duplication and overlapping of the foliage evenly spaced around the main stem of the plant. Straight petioles with each layer of leaves progressively larger than the preceding layer.

TISSUE CULTURE: Test tube propagation using a culture medium and producing hundreds of plants from a minute piece of plant tissue.

VERMICULITE: A sterile, lightweight, brownish, soft-textured, pebbly material. It is manufactured from crushed mica ore expanded to many times its original size through intense heat.

WETTING AGENT: A solution that is mixed with water to reduce the surface tension that causes water to bead.

WICKING: Any material used to draw water from a reservoir into the soil of a potted plant.



Jolly Jaden

Exhibited by:
Kathy Lahti
Hybridized by:
H. Pittman
Semiminiature



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Rob's Fe Fi

Exhibited by:
Catherine Carter
Hybridized by:
R. Robinson
Miniature

Building an Economy LED Light Stand

By Josh McKinney • Madison, AL

This article will discuss how to construct an economical African Violet LED light stand. First you will need a sturdy steel shelving unit. You can find them at most big box hardware stores, but I purchased mine from Target because it was in stock: the Room Essentials Strata wide 5-tier shelf (\$59.99). It is 72" Tall x 47 5/8" Wide x 18" Deep. The shelving unit can be assembled without special tools and the shelves are adjustable. The width is important, since most shop lights are about 48" wide. I also opted to buy the caster kit (\$14.99) and some hooks (\$4.99) for later use.

When you assemble the unit, make sure to leave some room at the bottom for the casters if you want them. For mine, I desired that the shelves spaced equidistantly from each other (approximately 15"-16"). Place a rubber mat where the shelf will stand if you would like to catch spills.

For the light fixtures, I purchased a dual pack of FEIT model #73983 LED shop light from Costco (\$40.00 on sale). The FEIT light fixtures can be connected up to four in a series. If you prefer florescent fixtures you could install those instead of LED ones.

Make sure you also buy a timer if you need one (about \$6 from Home Depot) and small S-hooks (1" four pack about \$1). For trays, I used 17" x 11" x 3/4" cookie sheet pans from Aldi (\$3.99 each) and some aluminum foil trays (\$1 each) from a dollar store, but you can use whatever is convenient. Each shelf should fit about four 11" trays. Use trays that are opaque or the residual light from the shelf above may be too bright for the plants!

The LED shop lights include small cables that you can loop around the shelf above and attach to the opposite ends of the fixtures with an S-hook. Arrange the fixtures with the power cords alternating to allow them to be linked together in a

series. Make sure not to have them too close to the shelf! For starters and established plants, I set the bottom of the fixture about 12 5/8" above the base of the shelf where the plants were to be placed. If you have established plants, they can accept more light than cuttings. Don't make the mistake I did and leave the light on your leaf cuttings for too long. If necessary, start at six hours per day and work up to more once they are established. Rooted leaves with plantlets and starter plants can take more light, about eight hours. When in doubt, start with fewer hours and work up to more and your plants will thank you.

The intensity of the light from LEDs does NOT diminish toward the end of the fixtures as in florescent tubes. The FEIT shop lights use 42 watts, last up to 50,000 hours, and emit 3,700 lumens at 4,000K color temperature (cool white). Compared to a shop light with two T12 tubes (88 watts w/ballast losses) it can save up to \$253.00 in yearly energy costs. Moreover, light output from LEDs does not reduce with age and they last much longer than florescent tubes. Furthermore, LEDs don't produce much heat due to their efficiency. I am even considering the idea of trying low-light species in the fourth shelf below without using an active light fixture! Another good spot for plants that need less light is near the back or front edge of the shelf, furthest from the LED fixture.

I don't grow for show and cannot speak as to the effectiveness of LED lights for that purpose. I do know, however, that they work rather well and I appreciate how they don't have the annoying hum and flicker of florescent light fixtures. The FEIT shop lights turn on instantly, are bright and produce good quality light. I would recommend them as something to try when one of your florescent lights bum out. Try them on a few plants at

first as you become accustomed to their attributes and performance. I still grow most of my plants in natural light. Hope your growing stand turns out as well as mine did and don't be afraid to try something new!

Total cost of LED light stand	
(estimated for four shelves)	
Shelving unit with casters	74.98
Mounting hardware	2.00
Foil trays 16 x 1.00	16.00
LED Shop Lights	80.00
Timer	6.00
Total (before tax):	\$178.98

Photo of shelving unit with four shop lights:





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Phil Wallace for his help in
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By Pauline Bartholomew
 and
 The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

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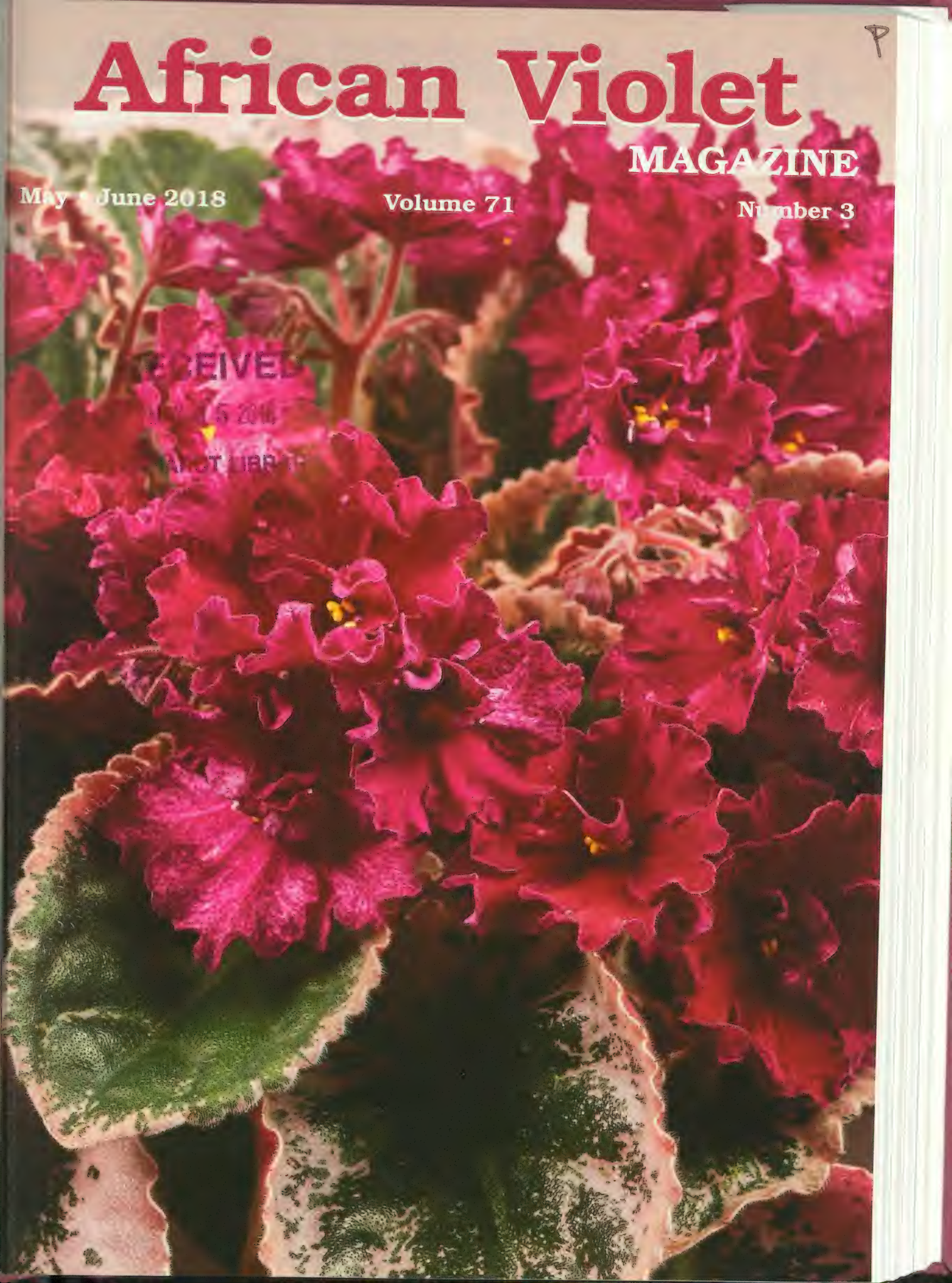
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ARTICLES BY MEMBERS, COLUMNISTS, AND MEMORIALS: Send to Interim Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles and Columnists: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

COMING EVENTS: Send to Interim Editor.

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ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and information: Cindi Nofziger, 1035 Lakewood Dr., Albany, OR 97321. *Email* <ccnofziger@comcast.net> **(Ad rates on web site: AVSA.org)** (541) 926-8116.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan/Feb. issue - Nov. 1; Mar/Apr. issue - Jan. 1; May/June issue - Mar. 1; July/Aug. issue - May 1; Sept./Oct. issue - July 1; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 1.

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The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November. Periodical postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a non-profit organization at

2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 and at additional mailing offices.

Subscription \$35.00 per year which is included in membership dues • Copyright 2017 The African Violet Society of America, Inc. POSTMASTER: Please send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Magazine • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, TX 77702

African Violet

May • June

Volume 71

Number 3

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On this Cover:

Buckeye Requiem

Judges Special Award

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Standard

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To Be Announced, Publication Chairman

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

President's Message

By Richard Nicholas - *President*

3113 Deerfield Dr. • Denton, TX 76208

Email: randanicho@aol.com

AVSA Friends:

As I write this column we are in the middle of the spring show season for many of our affiliates. Certainly not all our members want to grow for shows, but in most cases the club's show is an important event bringing members together and often recruiting new members. I have been honored to be invited to serve as a judge for the Tulsa show, the Spring Branch (Houston) show, and soon the Dallas Trio show. I always enjoy these shows and especially enjoy some time with our violet friends. Such good people! I also notice that violet people are always great cooks! But I digress.

As this issue of the AVM arrives, we will be close to our national convention and show in Buffalo, NY - a joint show with our friends in the AVS of Canada. More information appears elsewhere in this issue. I hope many members are able to join us there. There will be beautiful plants to see, new plants to buy, learning workshops, tours, and lots of violet friends! AVSA's Technology Committee will host a special session on new tech products and upgrades for our members. Another new change will be the creation of a new special committee: a Marketing Committee, to be charged with



a program to advance the awareness and reputation of AVSA. More information appears elsewhere in this magazine.

Interviews are about to begin for the new Editor position. Hopefully by the time of the convention we will have an announcement.

Earlier this month I visited our AVSA office in Beaumont. We still have no estimate to repair the damage to the roof and eaves. In my opinion some of the damage is worse than expected. This matter will be an agenda item for the board meeting. Of course, the highlight of any visit to the office is some time to work with our Office Manager, Amy Carruth. She does so much for us, including so much that is unseen. She is a treasure! If you are attending the Buffalo show, be sure to stop by to say "thank you"!

Finally, you may remember that I now have a Facebook page open. I post often about AVSA. If you are on Facebook, send a friend request! I would also encourage every member to add AVSA to your profile and/or homepage. Let's spread the word!

Good luck to all those with spring shows!
Remember, violets connect us!

Richard



Buying African Violets On eBay

By Karin Peters

Soon after getting back into the hobby of African Violets, I purchased plants from a commercial seller. I was in awe of the variety on their website and was so excited to get them in the mail. Before long, I placed a second order and a month later I placed a third.

To my dismay, I realized that one of the plants from this vendor had soil mealy bugs. Worse yet, so did every plant from all three shipments. Fortunately, these plants had all been isolated from the rest of my collection and they promptly went in the trash. I let the seller know who apologized and offered me a full refund. Because of this experience, I decided that buying from smaller operations might ensure that any pest problems would be more easily noticed by the seller.

That's when I became well-acquainted with buying African violets and other plants on eBay. Of course, some sellers are better than others but I have been more than happy with all my purchases of plants and leaves.

5 Tips for Buying On eBay

1. Search for Your Wish List -

We all have that one hybrid that we can't wait to get our hands on! eBay allows you to search through thousands of listings for that special plant. You can even save your specific search for later if you can't find what you're looking for. eBay sellers are usually individuals that sell from their private collections. Commercial growers can only grow so many hybrids but eBay has opened up the availability of rare plants from hobbyists. Supporting eBay vendors keeps many rare hybrids intact which otherwise may have been forgotten or even become extinct.



*Hunter's Muy Grande,
hybridized and grown
by Ken Muzalewski*

2. Look at feedback - The best sign of a good seller is a high feedback rating. eBay allows all buyers to leave detailed feedback from their transaction as well as a 1-5 star rating on seller performance such as communication, listing description, shipping speed and even shipping charges. eBay reviews are the authentic experiences from other buyers like you. You don't only see a rating but can read specific buyer comments. eBay always seeks to keep their buyers happy so the reviews are authentic unlike some sites that can have incentivized or fake reviews. Also, be sure the seller has plenty of sales under their belt by looking at the number next to their seller name.

3. Ask Around. If you still aren't confident in your potential purchase, you can ask around. The sellers I buy from have grown for years, are extremely careful when it comes to pests and know how to grow healthy plants. To find out more about sellers, go to the African Violets for Sale Facebook page and ask if anyone has had

an experience with a particular seller. You are bound to find someone who has bought from them and can give you some advice.

4. Read the Entire Listing - Good eBay sellers go to a lot of trouble to keep you informed about their practice and the details of your transaction. Be sure to read all of the listing information before bidding as the seller should spell out what happens in case your plants are damaged upon arrival.

5. Leave Good Feedback - Being a seller on eBay can be very difficult. From selling some plants of my own, I've learned that a LOT of hard work goes into getting a well-packaged, healthy plant to your door step. Also, eBay sellers have to pay significant fees to eBay

and PayPal. With the rising cost of packing materials each year, they make very little for a typical sale price of \$7-8. If you have a good experience, be sure to tell them about it.

Are Plants On eBay More Expensive?

The final auction price on some plants can go higher than others. This happens more often for plants that are rare or new hybrids. As with any other product, there is a supply and demand. Therefore, a brand-new yellow and pink Russian chimera is going to be more expensive than a more common, older American variety.

Bidders should have their highest potential bid price in mind and not go over it. Most sellers have more than one of a particular variety and prices usually go down later in the season. Be sure to follow that seller on eBay and check back once a week if there's a plant you really want.

When auction prices do go higher, it's important to remember that the sellers are not driving these prices and many sellers will give free plants/leaves when this does occur.

My Favorite 3 eBay Sellers

(in no particular order)

In writing this article I realized that each of these sellers have three things in common. They each hybridize their own plants, sell plants on eBay and each have numerous show awards and ribbons. It is so rare to find even one individual that does these three aspects of our hobby so well. There are dozens of great eBay sellers, but here are my 3 favorites:



Irish Whiskey, hybridized and grown by Linda Rowe

1. Linda Rowe, eBay ID: bloominjungle

Linda runs a large operation located in Red Creek, New York. She has been selling African Violets for years and her growing and packaging habits are impeccable. For colder months, she double boxes her plants and uses heat packs to ensure plants arrive safely. I have been so amazed by her customer service and the quality of her plants.

2. Belinda Thibodeaux, eBay ID: cajunladyb

As an extensive hybridizer of African violets, Belinda sells on eBay to share her hybrids with others. If you aren't familiar with the Cajun's hybrids, you are missing out, as they boast exceptional symmetry and equally spectacular blooms. Belinda is very generous with her orders and they are always packed very well.



Cajun's Christy, hybridized and grown by Belinda Thibodeaux (named after her late daughter Christy)

3. Ken Muzalewski, eBay ID: piercedm

I remember my first purchase with Ken several years ago when I was outbid on a plant I wanted called Cajun's Pink Crepe Paper (B. Thibodeaux). I had won bids on two other plants. I was pleasantly surprised when I opened the box of my two plants to find a couple free leaves of Cajun's Pink Crepe Paper. Not only does Ken sell beautiful plants but he has answered dozens of questions to help me grow for show. Ken hybridizes the Hunter's hybrids.

To find them on eBay, go to www.ebay.com and click Advanced Search on the top right. Look at the column on the left to click 'Search By Seller' and then type in their name. I hope you have as much fun finding new plants on eBay as I do.

2018 VACATION GUIDE

By Linda Hall

These AVSA commercial members would be happy to have you visit them when you are in their area. They are listed here by state. Please carefully note the contact information, hours, and

if visits are by appointment only. Enjoy the education and inspiration that visiting these businesses will afford you!

Missouri

Dave's Violets

David Harris
1372 S. Kentwood Ave.
Springfield, MO 65804-0220
(417) 887-8904
E-mail: plantman57@att.net
By appointment only
Sinningias, African violets and other gesneriads.
www.davesviolets.com

New York

Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, Inc.

Paul Sorano
14 Mutchler St.
PO Box 249
Dolgeville, NY 13329
(315) 429-8291
E-mail: info@lyndonlyon.com
8:00 am – 4:00 pm (Mon – Fri)
10:00 am – 4:00 pm (Sat)
Noon – 4:00 pm (Sundays, May and June only)
African violets, gesneriads. Located just ten minutes off I-90 in the foothills of the Adirondack Mtns.
www.lyndonlyon.com

The Violet Barn

Ralph and Olive Ma Robinson
7209 County Road 12
Naples, NY 14512

(585) 374-8592

E-mail: comments@violetbarn.com

Shop and greenhouse open 12-5 pm, Wednesday thru Saturday year-round. African violets, gesneriads, begonias, terrarium plants, other related houseplants and supplies.
www.violetbarn.com

Texas

Glenda's House of Violets/Ambrosia Violets

Glenda Williams
829 Old Highway 20, Unit B
McDade, TX 78650-5265
(512) 988-1918
E-mail: ambrosiavioles@gmail.com
By appointment only-please call to schedule visit.
African violets, other gesneriads, growing supplies (inventory growing daily), custom soil mixes for African violets and gesneriads.
Sales list available via email.
www.facebook.com/ambrosiaviolets

Jan's Workshop

Jan Davidson
941 FM 2377
Red Oak, TX 75154
(214) 718-1186 (cell)
E-mail: chieftrond@aol.com
Custom ribbons and rosettes
Call for appointment.

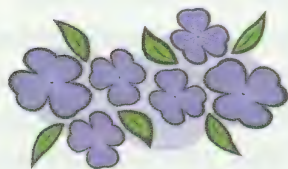




Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Primulina 'Mickey Mouse'

MAAVS

Exhibited by: Pat Knight

In Search of New Violets

Dr. Jeff Smith - *The Indiana Academy*

Ball State University • Muncie, IN 47306

Email: JSmith4@bsu.edu

The original blue African violets in the wilds of Kenya and Tanzania mutated fairly early into a number of different colors ranging from white, pink, red, green, coral, and most recently yellow. Various studies and publications have been made on the inheritance of the flower color. In most cases only a handful of 5-7 genes control all of the different flower colors. A different set of mutations that also occurred were changes in the pattern or distribution of the color across the flower petals. Wild African violets generally have a very even distribution of color across the flower petals. While some occasionally show a darker eye or other slight variation in color pattern, these changes are usually environmentally caused and not genetic as the trait fails to propagate and usually disappears entirely in later blooming cycles. Over the decades of intense hybridizing efforts, a number of pattern traits have emerged that changes the distribution of the pigment over the flower. Therefore, we get variation in African violet flowers not just with different pigments, but also in the way the pigments are distributed in the flower petals. This column will focus on one of several flower pattern traits.

Q: What can you tell me about the inheritance of a colored eye in the center of the flower?

A: There are several different pattern mutations that can give a colored eye in the center of an African violet flowers. Here is a summary of several of them:

1. White eye in the center, color on the outer part of the petals - this is usually one of the forms of the "Thumbprint" trait started by Optimara in their Artist series. Examples are 'Optimara Dali' and 'Optimara Leonardo DaVinci'. There is a very high degree of variability with the trait according to flower form (pansy shape or star shape) and the environmental temperature. The "eye" is more pronounced in the star shaped flowers and seems to give more white area under warmer temperatures. Some thumbprints have very little white in the center or eye area and others have quite a pronounced white center. The thumbprint mutation is a genetic dominant. Only one dose of the trait is necessary to give the pattern. Double dominant plants may have more white on the petal edges and centers of the flower and less color in the petal centers.
2. Colored eye with wide white edges - the most pronounced contrasts of this color pattern are with the 'Optimara My ____' series such as 'Optimara MyLove' and 'Optimara MyDesire'. The trait restricts the color to the center areas only and produces wide white edges often over 50% or more of the petal. This pattern appears to be a genetic dominant trait and shows a small amount of dose affect. Plants that are double dominants have slightly wider edges and smaller colored eyes. The trait is best expressed at warmer temperatures. Growing too cool can give more color in the center that streaks outward. Contrast in color is good on either pansy or star shaped flowers.
3. Colored eye with narrow white edges - this may be the result of an older mutation often called Geneva edges after the first cultivar with the mutation. Most of the flower is colored with the white edges as a narrow band. The band may be irregular in shape. The trait is a genetic dominant, but even in double dominant plants the white band is much narrower than with the 'Optimara My ____' series plants. Calling the colored center an area an "eye" might be stretching things, as most of the petal is colored and not white.
4. Bicolors - Optimara has created and released over the years a number of flowers that have colored edges and an eye of the same color in the centers. Flowers with this expression have



sometimes been called bicolors because of the even expression of two colors over the flowers. The centers of the petals are white but may be streaked with color. Many are in blue shades with blue rims and a small blue eye. Other colors in this pattern exist, but have never seemed to have the same popularity as the blue ones. The trait appears quite variable in expression and is likely temperature sensitive. I haven't seen hybridizing data on this pattern but I would suspect the trait to be a genetic dominant. Double dominants may have some difference in expression than single dominants, but this is uncertain.

5. Small eye of darker color in the center of paler flowers - In checking the data in First Class, there are many examples of flowers with pale colors with just a ring or of darker color in the center. A number of examples of flowers with this trait are the Allegro hybrids by the late Janet Stormborg. My best guess is that this is the result of a color restriction gene that limits color development over the entire flower except for the very center where the nectaries would have been in other flowers. Perhaps the tissue where the nectary would be located is different somehow and allows full penetration of the pigment trait. The trait is likely a genetic dominant and is probably another variation of a color restriction pattern gene.
6. Large eye of darker color in the center of paler flowers - This pattern appears to be much rarer as there are very few cultivars of this type mentioned in First Class. One of the perhaps better examples is the Russian hybrid Utomlennoe Solntse or 'Bored Sun' by K. Morev. This plant has a light coral pink flower with a wide darker salmon eye. Another example is 'Ace of Hearts' by I. Guttman that is pink with a wide mauve eye. Another possible candidate with this trait is

Kent Stork's 'Kent's Big Deal', which has a blue flower with a wide red eye. The relative rarity of flowers with this trait suggests two possible causes: 1) they are a genetic recessive harder to hybridize or 2) this color contrast just never caught on in popularity for some reason. I contacted Joyce Stork to see if there were any hybridization records for 'Kent's Big Deal' but she was not able to find anything definitive in Kent's records. Joyce commented that Kent often had much of his information stored in his head. She recalls that the color contrast never really caught on in popularity the way Kent had expected. Perhaps the color contrast is too subtle to appeal to most growers and the mutation never really caught on.

7. Colored petals with white dots or notches at the tips - This pattern is not really an eye pattern like the previous traits, but a slight change in the expression of the pigment distribution in the flowers. Often known as "dogwood dots" because of the similar notches seen in the "petals" of the dogwood tree flowers (which are really bracts or colored leaves and not flower petals at all), these flowers are fully pigmented except for a white dot at the very tip of each petal. The trait is reported to be a genetic dominant and would be very easy to work with. 'Tipped Honey' by H. Pittman is a good example of this mutation. Double dominant flowers might have slightly larger white dots but this is not been clearly established.

There are a number of other pattern distribution traits in African violet flower such as fantasy marks, chimeras and others, but these can be a topic for another column. We are fortunate that in addition to the pigment mutations, we also have pattern distribution mutations generally available in all colors. This increases the variety and types of African violet flowers enormously.



Registration Report

By Joe Bruns

1220 Stratford Lane • Hanover Park, IL 60133

Email: jbruns@qwip.net

Dogan Uygun – Izmir, Turkey

'M. Morkelebek' (10935) 12/02/2017
(D. Uygun) Single-semidouble lavender-purple two-tone star/thin white stripe. Medium green, plain, pointed, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

Belinda Thibodeaux – Patterson, LA

'Cajun's Christy' (10936) 01/22/2018
(B. Thibodeaux) Single-semidouble purple pansy/white eye and rays, thin white edge, variable green edge on top petals. Variegated medium green and cream, plain, ovate. **Standard**

'Cajun's Cotton Candy' (10937)
01/22/2018 (B. Thibodeaux) Single-semidouble rose pink ruffled star/white eye and edge. Variegated medium green and cream, serrated. **Standard**

'Cajun's Mama Ruby' (10938) 01/22/2018
(B. Thibodeaux) Semidouble-double wine-red star. Variegated medium green and cream, quilted, serrated. **Standard**



'Cajun's Mystical Star' (10939)
01/22/2018 (B. Thibodeaux) Single-semidouble white star/random white-rayed purple patches. Variegated medium green and cream, ovate, quilted. **Standard**

'Cajun's Swamp Dancer' (10940)
01/22/2018 (B. Thibodeaux) Single-semidouble blue frilled star/thin white edge. Variegated medium green and cream, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

'Cajun's Tomcat' (10941) 01/22/2018 (B. Thibodeaux) Single-semidouble red-purple ruffled pansy/darker edge. Variegated medium green, cream and pink, quilted. **Standard**

REGISTRATION CHANGE

The following has been changed at the request of the hybridizer:

'Ma's Mardi Gras' (9694) Change blossom description to "Semidouble chimera lavender ruffled pansy/*blue fantasy*, white stripe, variable green edge." (change in italics).

AVSA DONATION FUND LEVELS



Thumbprint (Under \$25)



Geneva (\$100-\$499)



Two-Tone (\$25-\$49)



Fantasy (\$500-\$999)



Multicolor (\$50-\$99)



Chimera (Over-\$1000)



Photo Credit: Mel Grice

Mag's Lovely Rainbow

Ohio State AVS 2017

*Shown and Hybridized by: Marge Farrand
Standard*

Final Contest Update

By Pat Hancock

By now you should be getting excited about the leaves and tubers that this year's hybridizers will be sending to the three contest winners. Remember, the first place winner will receive 32 leaves and/or tubers, the second place will receive 16, and the third place will receive 8. There are just four more

hybridizers for me to introduce.

Linda Lloyd has been growing African violets since 1970. She started showing in 2015 and did so with a great deal of success. Her first show was in Cincinnati where she won Best in Show and second best in



RC's Grape Sprinkles

show with 'Rain Main' and 'Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler.' In 2017 she won Best in Show at the Ohio State Show again with 'Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler.' Linda says 'Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler' is her favorite plant and she grows at least 10 of them most of the time. She began hybridizing in 2013 and uses the prefix RC. She will provide leaves of some of her hybrids for the winners.



Seedling RC-BES x OML-5



Seedling RC-RQR x BCS-3

Steve Covolo lives in California and previously lived in Chicago, where he won many awards for his violet expertise. Steve started hybridizing both streps and violets in 2015. Some of his favorite violets are: 'Smooch Me' (Stork), 'Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler' (Hancock), and 'Shazam' (Sorano).



Steffano's Jester

His favorite streps are: 'Franken Skye', 'Spin Art', and 'Double Take' (his own). Steve's prefix is "Steffano's" and he will send strep leaves to the 3 winners.

The last two hybridizers both live in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.



Steffano's Double Take



Steffano's Shadow Play

Carol Eros has been hybridizing since the 1980's and "got serious" in the mid 1990's. The first hybrid that she kept and named was 'Pu Yi' named for the last emperor of China. One of her first crosses was from a "Nadeau Kit" from which she kept a miniature seedling 'Morgan E.' 'Morgan E' was bred to 'Rob's Sarsparilla' and produced her first named hybrids. Some of her favorites are: 'Morgan's Sweet Patootee,' 'Morgan's Drifter's Rose,' and 'Morgan's Chutney Popcorn.' Carol specializes in miniatures and semiminiatures. She has one hybrid named for Hortense Pittman whom she admires a lot, - 'Morgan's Mrs. Pittman.' She will provide leaves of her hybrids for the winners.



Imp's Pretty Deadly

The last of hybridizers is **Jeff Jackson**, also from Edmonton. He has been hybridizing since 2004 and specializes in "Wasp" type violets. I

was intrigued when Jeff told me that he once had 14 tanks of guppies. It seems that many African violet enthusiasts once had, and bred guppies. I know at least 20 of them that did this.



Imp's Jellyfish Sting

Jeff became interested in hybridizing when he saw the plants of David Senk. His first cross was 'Teen Thunder' and 'Ultra Violet Twilight.' After that he was hooked! His first "wasp" plant was 'Blue Tail Fly.' In 2007, he crossed 'Kyanite Sparkle' with 'Blue Tail Fly.' From that cross he named 8 plants - 6 were "wasps." He uses the prefix "Imps." Jeff's favorite plants are: 'Imp's Jellyfish Sting,' 'Imp's Pretty Deadly,' and 'Imp's Pink Eye.' He will send leaves of his hybrids to the 3 winners.



Imp's Pink Eye

Thanks so much for making our magazine better with your experiences. I am grateful that you have taken the time to write. Please keep it up.



Photo Credit: Neil Lipson

Optimara EverSpecial

Grown by: Janet Sheaffer

Hybridized by: R. Holtkamp

Large

Convention is Almost Here!!

By Judy Niemira

Can you believe that the 2018 Joint AVSA/AVSC Convention and Show is almost here? Where did the time go? We here in the Buffalo area are busy getting ready for you. The last AVM article before convention is typically information on the local weather and some packing tips. Based on what has been going on so far this year the best advice seems to be go to your closet and bring everything. It's been a roller coaster so far except for March which has been not fun.

However, by May things are a little bit more calm around here with average temperatures in the mid to high 60's. Those of you already used to the 90's will need to bring your snowsuits I guess.

I have a sister who lives in Florida and she would be freezing. Here, we will be in shorts and sandals. The hotel is of course climate controlled but close to Lake Erie. The breeze off the lake will still be cold in May so if you plan to get some fresh air you will need to bring whatever weight jacket you need to keep warm in those temperatures. As with so many places we are fond of saying if you don't

like the weather wait five minutes, so layers are good. It can be in the low seventies with overnight temps dipping into the forties or even the thirties. We don't plant tender veggies like tomatoes until after Memorial Day as that is the official last day we could have a hard frost. Those of us who like to temp Mother Nature will put them out the week before and be prepared to move them or cover them based on the weather report but they just sit there until it warms

up in June. If you are planning on attending the Boat Trip on Saturday evening you will want those layers again. If it is sunny it can be warm on the water but chilly when the sun goes down. May can also be somewhat damp so be

sure to bring rain gear. I did say at convention last year that I could ALMOST certainly promise you that it would not snow. I stand by that promise this year.

Whatever the weather Buffalo is still has a great deal to offer and you can have a wonderful time in spite of the weather. So pack up your old kit bag and shuffle off the Buffalo. See you soon!



Articles and Columnists Deadlines

January Issue - October 1

March Issue - December 1

May Issue - February 1

July Issue - April 1

September Issue - June 1

November Issue - August 1

“Timeless Violets” from MAAVS



Rain Man

Exhibited by:
Rodney Barnett
Hybridized by:
M. Bums
Standard

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Rob's Boolaroo

Exhibited by:
Kitty Hedgepeth
Hybridized by:
R. Robinson
Semiminiature Trailer
Best Semiminiature Trailer /
Best Fantasy Blossom /
Judges' Award of Merit



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

*S. 5f clone
orbicularis*

*Exhibited by:
Kitty Hedgepeth
Best in Show /*

*Tricolor in Horticulture / Best
AVSA Species Collection /
Best Saintpaulia Species*



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



*Sinningia
pusilla*

*Exhibited by:
Kitty Hedgepeth
Best Other
Gesneriad in Show*

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Blue Boy

Best Vintage (MAAVS)

Exhibited by: Rodney Barnett

Hybridized by: Armacost & Royston

Standard

Anne & Frank Tinari Endowment Fund

Janet Riemer • 256 Pennington-Harbourton Rd. • Pennington, NJ 08534
December 2017 - January and February 2018 • **Total this period: \$1,360.00**



Geneva – \$100-\$499

AVS of Dayton (OH)

In memory of Kent Stork and John Carter

Margo & Lindsay

In honor of their father, Randy McMahon

Eric Summers

Karen Plourde

Chuck Bingham

Pamela Schwager

In memory of members of Missouri Valley AV Council who have died

Lone Star AV Council

In memory of John Carter



Multicolor – \$50-\$99

Tampa AVS

In memory of Nancy Lee Simmons

Joan Santino

In memory of Kent Stork & John Carter

Tristate AV Council

In memory of Rhona Thurman

First Nighter AVS of Dallas

In memory of June Swift

Amethyst Violet Club (MO)

In memory of Marion Hamtil



Two-Tone – \$25-\$49

Charles & Sue Ramser

In memory of Barry Hapner

Charles & Sue Ramser

In memory of Rhona Thurman

Carol Sulewski

In memory of Lois Szostak

Janet Riemer

In memory of John Cook

Susan Riley

San Diego North County AVS

In memory of Chuck Cassity

Karyn Cichocki

In memory of John Cook

Dr. Richard A. Nicholas

Lone Star AV Council

In memory of Verna Pickren

Lone Star AV Council

In memory of Catherine Porter

Lone Star AV Council

In memory of Joanie Sleeper

Lone Star AV Council

In memory of Rhona Thurman



Thumbprint – Under \$25

Roy Crosier

Susan Frumerie

Marion Martin

Mark Grigalunas

F. Eleanor Mattaliano

Andrea Pirone



Coming Events

May 5-6 - Ohio

North Coast Gesneriad &
African Violet Display & Show
Saturday May 5 - 10:00 am-5:00 pm
Sunday May 6 - 12 Noon - 5:00 pm
Cleveland Botanical Gardens
11030 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio
Penny Johnson (440) 286-8235
kriterfeeder@hotmail.com

May 5-6, 2018 - Ohio

Columbus African Violet Society
69th Annual Show & Sale
Franklin Park Conservatory & Botanical Gardens
1777 East Broad St.
Columbus, Ohio 43203
Show: Saturday May 5 - 12 Noon - 5:00 pm
Sunday, May 6 - 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sales: Saturday & Sunday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Show Chair: Madelyn Sechler mjsechler@gmail.com

May 5-6 - Wisconsin

Oshkosh Violet Society
Annual Judged Show & Sale
St Jude the Apostle Church Hall
531 Knapp St., Oshkosh, WI
Saturday, May 5 - 10:00 am - 4:30 pm
Sunday, May 6 - 11:30 am - 3:00 pm
Kevin Degner (920) 426-3764
kevin_degner@sbcglobal.net

May 11-12 - Montana

Billings Bloomers African Violet Club Annual Sale
St Andrew Presbyterian Church
180 24th St., W. Billings, MT.
Across from West High School
Friday, May 11 - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Saturday, May 12 - 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Ron Junkert (406) 672-5651
Robin Kraft (406) 256-3513
Bev Amen (406) 656-2694
Lots of new varieties and companion plants.
Also supplies available.
Jo Ann Levine - Sale Chairman
sassysmom@hotmail.com

May 12 - Nova Scotia, Canada

Annapolis Valley African Violet Society
Annual Show/Sale
Saturday, May 12, 2:00 - 4:00 pm
St John's United Church Hall, 202 Main Street

Middleton, Nova Scotia BOS 1P0
Admission: Free Will Offering
Dixie Cress (902) 538-0741; dl.cress@ns.sympatico.ca

May 19 - California

Burbank/Montrose Violet Show
Burbank & Montrose African Violet Society
Show and Sale at Descanso Gardens
Van de Kamp Hall, 1418 Descanso Drive
La Canada, California
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Susan Eyraud - President (818) 951-3597
www.burbankafricanviolet.weebly.com

May 12 - New Jersey

Susan Eyraud - President African Violet Club of
Burlington County
Annual Judged Show and Sale
Medford Leas Retirement Community
1 Medford Leas Way
Medford, NJ
Hours: Noon-5:00 pm
Susan Arnao: searnao@aol.com

September 7-8 - Ohio

The Ohio State African Violet Society
Annual Judged Show and Sale
Kingwood Center Gardens
50 Trimble Rd., Mansfield, OH 44906
Friday, September 7
Sales Room 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
The Show is open for viewing 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Saturday, September 8
Sale & Show 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Free to public (Kingwood Center Parking is \$5/car)
Mel Grice: melsgrice@earthlink.net or
(937) 654-7014
www.osavs.org

September 15 - 16, 2018 - California

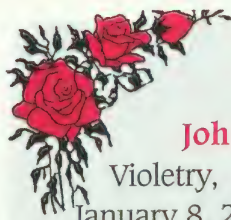
Delta Gesneriad and African Violet Society
Show and Sale
Gesneriads and African Violets Around the World
Sacramento Garden and Arts Center
3330 McKinley Blvd
Sacramento, CA 95816
Saturday, September 15 - 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Sunday, September 16 - 11:00 am to 3:00 pm
Open to the Public - Free Admission



Photo Credit: Neil Lipson

Ma's Party Music

Grown by: Neil Lipson



In Memory

John Cook, proprietor of Cape Cod Violetry, passed away unexpectedly on January 8, 2018 at his home in New Bedford, Massachusetts. He was 81 years old.

John was a devoted member of Bay State African Violet Society which he served in many capacities over 40 years including a term as President and, most recently, as Treasurer. He was an active member at the time of his death.

Well known to plant hobbyists across the U.S., John was currently Chairman of Commercial Activities for the New York State AVS where he, along with his wife Barbara, had been members

since the 1970s. John's cheerful nature and hearty laugh made him a frequent master of ceremonies at NYSAVS conventions.

John was a devoted husband of well over 50 years to Barbara and a loving father to their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. John enjoyed life, people, and his beloved beagle dogs. He was an unlimited source of information on all things African Violets. His stories, laughter and good humor will be missed by all his local friends as well as in the African Violet world, where he was known and loved by many.

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Dianna Walston • 2210 S. Courtland Ave., Kokomo, IN 46902
Donations received February 1 to March 31, 2018 • **Total: \$986.00**



Geneva - \$100-\$499

Karen Plourde, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA
Sylvia Singh, Tiburon, CA



Multicolor - \$50-\$99

Trudy Brekel, Brighton, CO
Margaret Krygier, Streamwood, IL
Therese Lynam, Brandon, FL
Tampa AVS

In memory of John Cook

Joyce Stork, Henderson, NV

In memory of John Cook

Marian F. Zollner, Arlington, TN

In memory of Judy Ellis



Two-Tone - \$25-\$49

Mrs. Grace W. Bailey, Virginia Beach, VA
Lois Buschke, Morris Plains, NJ
Margaret A. Califano, Latham, NY

In memory of Patti Freed's parents

In memory of John Cook

Mosette Eibert, Redding, CA

Janis A. Goode, Dallas, TX

Jan Mittag, San Diego, CA

Carol Semrau, Anoka, MN

In memory of Barry Hapner



Thumbprint - Under \$25

Virginia Barthelemy, Tampa, FL

Evelyn J. Boyer, Austin, TX

Alice R. Dulaney, Broomall, PA

Mary Kealy-Falk, Hopkins, MN

Jill G. Fischer, Berkeley Heights, NJ

Mark Grigalunas, Millbrook, NY

Sue Haffner, Clovis, CA

Sarah Ingalls, Shiloh, IL

Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council

Robert Kurzynski, Clifton, NJ

Elizabeth D. Lebert, Clinton, CT

Elena Martinez, Miami, FL

Janice Murasko, Milltown, NJ

Frankie E. Pletzer, Beaumont, TX

Joan K. Wilson, Theresa, WI

Charlotte Wolfe, Ann Arbor, MI



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Irish Ruffles

Best New Introduction (MAAVS)

Exhibited by: Paul Sorano

*Hybridized by: D. Lamphere/Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Standard*

All the World's a Stage

By Richard Craft – Las Vegas, NV

It was early morning mid-February, 2017. The skies were overcast threatening to rain. Yet, the impending weather did nothing to dampen my spirits. The entire 30-minute drive across town, I was in eager anticipation of meeting some new African violet friends. It was 6:00 A.M. as I pulled up to the house.

I rang the doorbell, but then noticed that a posted note stated that the doorbell was not working. Apparently their dog disagreed with this assessment and was barking on the other side of the door. The door opened and I was greeted with, "Hi, I'm Joyce and this is my husband, Kent."

That was my first introduction to the Storks. After a very warm welcome, I was ushered into THE PLANT ROOM (!) There were three hand-made wooden shelves, all lit with T-12 fixtures, filled to the brim with African violets and other assorted gesneriads. In the middle of the room was a work table which obviously served as a potting/repotting station. I tried to glimpse the names of each of the plants, but was soon overwhelmed. A number of the African violets were Kent Stork hybrids. I had so many questions to ask Kent about his hybridization procedures - which parent plants he had used in the past, which ones were being considered for future crosses and on and on. I figured I would get to these questions in due time because we were taking a five hour road trip to Phoenix, Arizona for the Desert Sun African Violet Society's annual show and sale.

I sat in the front passenger seat of their minivan which had served as a delivery vehicle for their flower shop business in Fremont, Nebraska. After 39 years in the floral commerce, this was the first year wherein Valentine's Day did not totally dominate their lives. That and Mother's Day were their busiest times of the year. Kent and Joyce had closed their shop and had retired to southern Nevada to be close to their oldest son and family.

Their son and daughter-in-law were expecting their second child.

Before the van had even crossed into the Arizona desert, Kent had steered the conversation toward theater. I had been a lighting designer for theatrical productions, so I was interested in hearing about his experiences. As he spoke, I could hear the glee in his voice. Retirement from the flower shop business meant that he now had time to pursue his dream of being on stage. Kent explained that he was up for a part in a local theatrical production of "Art of Murder."

Outside, it was cloudy and occasional raindrops splattered the windshield. The desert landscape rolled by as the blooming Joshua trees and the saguaros reminded us that, even in the desert, there was beauty to behold. When we arrived in Phoenix, the rain was coming down in a steady stream.

We scurried across the parking lot to the building where the AV show was taking place. As we stepped inside the double doors, clapping and cheering broke out. Kent and Joyce were honored with a standing ovation. I then realized that these were two very special people loved in the African violet world. After all, they had co-authored the defacto standard book on AV's, "You Can Grow African Violets."

Shortly after the road trip to Phoenix, on April 22, 2017, Kent and Joyce gathered four other people together in a restaurant and our club made its debut and was dubbed, **Glitter Gulch African Violet Growers**. (Because people always ask: Glitter Gulch is the nickname given to the downtown area of Las Vegas, Nevada, on Fremont Street for its abundance of neon signs.)

From then on, I kept in touch with Kent, mostly by text. He had gotten the lead role in "Art of Murder" and was very busy memorizing his lines and rehearsing. The show was scheduled for nine performances.

I went to the fifth performance on April 29th. Kent was amazing with his acting, his delivery and outstanding performance. It had taken a LOT of work to prepare for his first leading stage role. After the performance, Kent and cast received a standing ovation. I went onstage and gave Kent a big hug and congratulated him for a job well done.

This was the last time I saw Kent. The next day he suffered a massive heart attack ten minutes into his sixth performance. His life's final bow happened around 11:30 that night.

In an ironic twist, only a clever Playwright could have cleverly penned the next scene. Nine hours later, in the very same hospital, Kent and Joyce's second grandchild was born. Kent had moved here to be closer to his family and to pursue his love of theater. In four months this had been accomplished. Then he was called Heavenward.

In "As You Like It," William Shakespeare penned, "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players; they have their exits and their entrances."

Kent had made his entrance into the African violet world, but alas, exited much too soon. We

are left with his 176 beautiful flowering African violets reminding us of him and his skills as a hybridizer.

His love of the theater can be seen in a number of his hybrid's names: 'Aria', 'Center Stage', 'Cosette', 'I Feel Pretty', 'Stage Whisper', and 'Stage-struck.'

Other hybridizers have used his show quality plants as progeny: several of John Brownlie's "Aca's" series; a number of Pat Hancock's "Buck-eye" violets; a handful of Olive Robinson's "Ma's" hybrids; a few of George MacDonald's reds; plus collaborations with Sharon Holtzman (creator of the "Newtown" hybrids); and Gordon Boone.

Over the past year, I have been collecting plants and leaves of Kent's hybrids to grow in honor of his memory. I'm always on the lookout for any of his hybrids, especially the lesser-known ones.

It had started on a rainy day in February. It ended on a clear warm night at the end of April. Kent, you are dearly missed, but deeply admired for your impressive contributions to the world of African violets. Thank you for your friendship.

Coming Events Deadlines

January Issue - November 1

March Issue - January 1

May Issue - March 1

July Issue - May 1

September Issue - July 1

November Issue - September 1

"And the winners are ..." 434 Plumwood Way • Fairview, TX 75069

By Mary Corondan

Email: mcorondan@yahoo.com

Illinois AVS, IL – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Cajun's Pink Crepe Paper, Cajun's Roses Anyone, Paula's PB and J; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Red, Rob's Jitterbug, Cajun's Lil Forever Blue; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Natalie Vazquez**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Jazz Bouquet, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fuddy Duddy;



Best Design, **Andrea Worrell**. Best Species Collection: *S. rupicola*, *S. 5cl* clone House of Amani, *S. 5b* clone *grotei* Silvert; Best Standard: Jersey Snow Flakes; Best Trailer: Rob's Wagga Wagga; Best Species: *S. rupicola*, **Annie Rieck**. Best Miniature: Dolores' Royal Prince, **Amy Cash-Allison**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Dale's Violet Pearls', **Dale Martens**. Design Sweepstakes, **Lana Gernady**.

JOIN TODAY!

The African Violet Society of America



2375 North St.
Beaumont, Texas 77702
(409) 839-4725

<http://avsa.org>

Write or call today for information

MARKETING ANYONE?

By Richard Nicholas - AVSA President

A goal for the next years is to increase the visibility, the social media presence, and the reputation of AVSA. To help us move forward, your Executive Committee has approved the creation of a special committee to be called the AVSA Marketing Committee.

We are looking for several AVSA members who have a marketing background or a sincere interest in advancing our hobby and our society. This new

committee will begin activities immediately after the Buffalo convention and show. Any members present for the show will have an initial meeting there. Anyone interested or anyone wishing to make a nomination for the Marketing Committee should contact me at txranviolets@gmail.com or by phone at (940) 565-0363.

Let's make AVSA well known as the "go to" place for all things violet!



Photo Credit: Neil Lipson

Rob's Galiwinku

Grown by: Sue Arnao

Hybridized by: R. Robinson

Semiminiature



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Petrocosmea 'Keystone Blue Jay'

MAAVS

Exhibited by: Barbara Jones

Hybridized by: T. Tuttle

Lest we forget....

By David Kesler
Chairman, Technology Committee, AVSA

If you have the First Class v2 program, you may have noticed a spot that displays "future use." That is the place that Joe has been holding open to display the year that listed plants first appeared in the MVL (Master Variety List). This spot has been reserved in order to verify that a plant is really a "Vintage" plant.

On registered varieties, it is easy to determine the year that the plant was included in the MVL, it is the registration date. Unfortunately, the listing date was not included in the MVL and consequently, it is not in the electronic AVML database that Joe Bruns maintains for the Association.

There are two reasons that the technology committee is putting forward the proposition that we, as an association should make a stab at including this little bit of information into the AVML database system.

First, if you want to help preserve the "vintage" violets that have been kept alive through the years, it would be nice to know what year they made their debut. You know that some of the older varieties are more stable and hardy. They

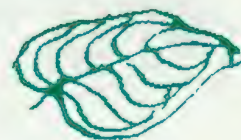
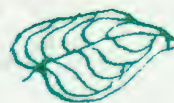
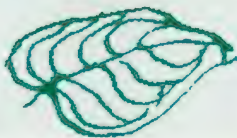
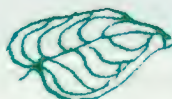
may not be as flashy as the newer cultivars but they carry their own charm and elegance. Currently, there seems to be a real interest in keeping the legacy of these violets alive. Personally, I am very partial to "Pink Energy." It is a great plant, easy to grow and displays very nicely.

Second, if the database were to contain the listing years on all the varieties in the AVML, it would make the Classification committee's job much easier at shows. The plants enter in the "normal" classes could easily be made available for the "Best Vintage" award, not just those

entered in the Vintage class. Joe might even be persuaded to include a report in the Entries program that would identify which classes contained vintage varieties to make it easy for the judges to locate and consider all of the possible plants.

I am hoping that this article will start a conversation about the "Vintage Violets" around us. The Technology Committee has been hard at work this last year. We have some excit-

ing things to share at Buffalo! Hope to see y'all there!



Member Login Procedure for AVSA Website will be Changing

Barbara Burde
AVSA Internet Committee Chairman, internet@avsa.org

Since the inception of the current website, there has been dissatisfaction with the password system used for member login. Many members found it inconvenient. The Internet Committee has been looking for a long time for a better system. Now, one has been found, and will be implemented in the near future.

Membership Number*

Last Name*

Your Membership Number is on the African Violet Magazine label.

This system will use the member's AVSA membership number and the member's last name for log-in. Therefore, each member's log-in will always remain the same - no more having to find an

ever-changing password. The new log-in window will look like this:

Members will need to locate and make note of their membership number and how their last name appears on the Membership Card that is on the *African Violet Magazine* white wrap (which also serves as the mailing label).

Clip this form, including mailing label and mail to:
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Beaumont, Texas 77702
Periodical Postage Paid at Beaumont, Texas and additional mailing offices. ISSN 0002-0265

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Please print your new address below:

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Chae M. Rowland
TREASURER

Your membership number is the 4 or 5 digit number that appears above your first name.

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Chae M. Rowland
TREASURER

You must enter your last name EXACTLY as it appears on the Membership Card; including all capitals, hyphens, spaces, etc. So if your name on the card is McHale, you must use both the capital M and the capital H. If the name is Smith Jr., you must use the capital S, capital J, the space and the period.

When this system is implemented, there will be an obvious notice on the website homepage; with a link to these instructions.



Ian-Minuet

MAAVS

Exhibited by:

Rodney Barnett

Hybridized by:

N. Puminova

Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Primulina *dryas* *'Hisako'*

Exhibited by:

Robert McMeel



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Tiny Wood Trail

Best Trailer and 3rd Best in Show (MAAVS)

Exhibited by: Kitty Hedgepeth

Hybridized by: L. Ray

Miniature Trailer

Affiliate Update

By Jeri Anderson - *Affiliate Chair*

Email: twajda1@comcast.net

May is the beginning of summer and the time when we start to do summer care for our violets. For those of us in warm climates, we might cut down the amount of light and the amount of fertilizer we give our plants. We might move our plants to a cooler location in our home, or at least to a lower shelf. Our goal is to keep our plants happy and healthy through the summer season. But, what summer care do you do for your club? If you scan through the local club listings on the AVSA website you will notice that many clubs shut down for the summer.

Many years ago, my local club, the Tucson African Violet Society, also shut down for the summer because most members planned vacations and our peak growing season had passed. Our show is normally held in March, with only one formal meeting in April, followed by a potluck in May to essentially end our year. The problem became that a few new people would sign up to join our local club at the spring show but by the time September came around, they often did not return. With only one real meeting after the spring show there was just too much down time between meetings. So, our club decided to hold meetings during the summer months of June, July and August. These are quite often hands-on meetings with no formal club business. The goal is to get our newest members engaged in growing African violets and interacting with other club members. We have succeeded in keeping our new recruits by getting them involved and this has kept them from losing interest.

I would encourage your club to continue meeting throughout the year to retain your membership. If your club has to pay for meeting space, perhaps your summer meetings could be held at member's homes. A few people may be missing



due to vacation plans, but you will be able to keep interest in your club during those long hot days of summer. With no club business being discussed at the summer meetings the vacationers do not miss out on important club information.

Also consider changing things up. Summer meetings do not necessarily have to be about African violets. A get-together for lunch at a restaurant or a potluck picnic works well to get your club members together and help your newest members feel like part of the group. Arrange a group tour of your local botanical garden, or visit a plant nursery. Make an effort to get your newest members actively involved in your club over the summer.....no summer drop-outs allowed. Naturally the same concept can be said for those clubs that shut down for a few months in the winter season.

It's wonderful to see so many affiliate clubs using the AVSA website to enter in their Event information. While it is still a work in progress, affiliate club contact information can also be entered under Club Update information via the AVSA website. After you click on 'Local Clubs' you will see the 'Local Club Update' information box. The system will automatically send the information to the Affiliate Chair. Save a stamp.

Most recently, the Affiliate Committee has been contacted by another person starting a new local club: Donna Juergenson: Pueblo, CO Email: djuerson2@gmail.com

Please reach out to Donna if you know anyone interested in joining a club in Pueblo, Colorado. If you are trying to start a new club in your area, please contact the Affiliate Chair for help. AVSA is here to help you get started and be successful in sharing the joy of growing African violets.

May this be the year that every club grows by at least one new African violet lover.



The Importance of Publicity

By Vicki Ferguson
Member of the African Violet
Society of Dayton (OH)

To some - 'publicity' is a verrry, scary word! And yet, doing it right can make your event even more successful and fun. There is a lot more to publicizing an event than simply posting a flyer on the library's bulletin board. Publicity is basically advertising. There are many avenues for getting the word out that often cost less than paid advertising - and much can be done for free! With publicity, you want to start early and send out repeated exposure and reminders. Do not underestimate the use of the word: FREE. Just the mention of 'Free Admission' or 'Free Demonstrations' or 'Free Giveaways' can increase event attendance.

Unfortunately these days, many newspapers are no longer covering local community news. That makes it even more difficult to get coverage on a local event. Smaller papers may only produce a weekly edition covering a small area. Medium-sized papers may only cover a town or county. Larger major media outlets may have local community editions but often limit what is printed.

In fact, many print publications and local event calendars now require that the user submit community event notices to an online calendar. From there, the publisher can pick and choose what events it features in the paper, magazine or website. Look for a 'Contact Us' box on the company website or a page that explains the publicity submission process.



Instagram

Let us not pooh-pooh the power of the digital world. Social Media sites such as Facebook, Instagram, and Pinterest continue to be some of the most powerful digital social networks. Facebook currently has over 750 million active users. If your club doesn't have a Facebook page or group page - create one NOW! It's free and it offers



great exposure! Create a Facebook Event prior to a club event date. Encourage all club members to invite their friends to join the event. Every time someone responds that they are 'Attending,' the event shows up in the Facebook Newsfeed, and that will give an event even MORE exposure.

Pinterest



Be sure to include all the relevant information on all publicity but don't get too wordy. Graphics and colors grab the eye - where text is often glossed over.

That being said, be sure to include the full street event with zip code of the venue. Nowadays GPS is the go-to modern-day way to find directions. Be sure to test any hyperlinks listed in the publicity to make sure there are no typos and that they are actual active links. Always include the club's website address and be sure to add a point-of-contact for more information.

As important as publicity is to an event before it happens, reporting the happenings afterwards can be just as beneficial. Write up a blurb with a list of the winners and post on the club website, Facebook page and print in the club newsletter.



Best of Show winner 'Red Lion' grown by Linda Lloyd. Photo credit by Mel Grice.

Photos catch a reader's attention. Not only do they recognize a job well done, they show readers what they missed out on if they did not attend the event making them more determined to attend next time.

Publicity Tips:

- Publicize on the club website or blog page; upload the club's newsletters to the website
- Use social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Blogs, YouTube, Craigslist, etc.) and include a link to your website/blog page
- Start a podcast or create a YouTube channel with cultural tip videos
- Google other like-interest groups to find websites that might be willing to publicize
- Use local paper, radio, TV, tourism bureau, chamber of commerce, online calendars, community news to publicize monthly meetings and guest speakers
- Connect with other like-minded clubs or organizations (garden clubs, Master Gardeners, local arboretums or public gardens/garden centers)
- Offer to give a repotting or propagation demonstration at a garden center
- Have a booth at a farmers market
- Create club business cards and/or informational brochure. Make sure they are eye catching! Color printing just might be worth the expense. A color photo of a plant will grab more attention than text.
- Distribute flyers/bookmarks/business cards/brochures at local garden centers or retail stores
- Mail/email out reminders to previous event attendees (this will require a sign-up sheet at the event to record contact info from people with interest in future sales/shows)
- Develop club logo and wear club apparel or nametags
- Develop a banner that can be used at events/shows/sales
- Promote the event on store/location marquee
- Offer workshops, demonstrations at garden center or event
- Offer a drawing for a free plant or have other give-aways/freebies
- Write a column for newspaper, magazine or journal and include event details
- Word of Mouth





Photo Credit: Mel Grice

Frosty Bubbles

Ohio State AVS 2017

Shown by: Debbie McInnis



Photo Credit: Neil Lipson

Shirl's Hawaiian Lei

Grown by: Paula Bal

Hybridized by: S. Sanders

Miniature

Mealy Bugs The latest in Treatments and Solutions

By Neil Lipson

It's been over a decade since I have had to deal with either foliar or soil mealy bugs. When I found it in three plants of my large collection, I decided to TOTALLY figure out how they got there and what to do to never let it happen again!

Foliar mealies are easy to spot. They are bright white dots, usually where the leaf grows from the stem, usually at the base of the plant. Soil mealies are insidious and are discovered when you pull the plant out of the pot as shown in the photo below.



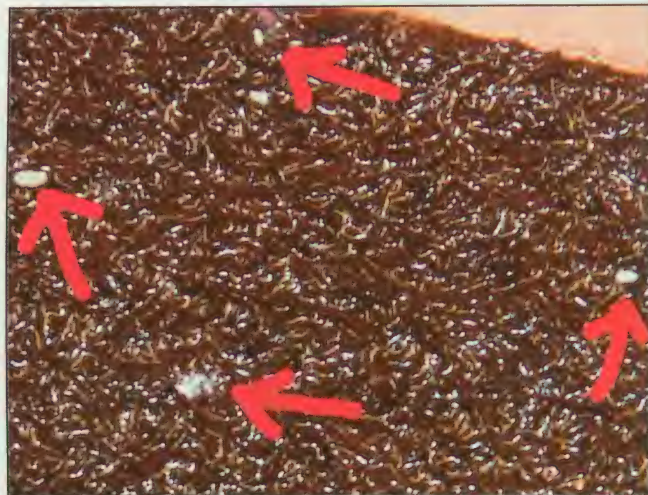
The "trail" of soil mealies will seem to follow a path, feeding on the roots of the plant. They are actually whiter and brighter than perlite. Once you know what to look for, they are dead obvious. They might fluoresce under UV light.

Another way to discover them is to use a dark brown felt as your wick, and they will instantly be seen as bright white mealies on the dark felt. Here



is a photo of what the felt will show (this mat was from the plant above):

(The small white dots everywhere else in this photo are merely the reflection of water on the mat.) This is an excellent reason to mat water your plants and to use a dark felt as the base.



Another example of easily discovering soil mealies is to use clear Solo cups, and their trail is very obvious on the side of the pot:



The trick in finding them is to know what to look for through the clear cups.

Last, if you wick water and the plant sits on a reservoir, you will see them floating on top of the water.

Treatment of the plants

Once you COMPLETELY eradicate the mealybugs, they won't come back, and you do not have to re-treat unless, however, there are dormant eggs. AND, how long the eggs live can be as long as six months. You also need to treat any plants you add to your collection regardless of how they look to eliminate a re-infection. I personally used Bonide Tree and Shrub at 1/2 ounce per gallon as a drench and a spray a few times a week, but others have used a higher dose for drenching, which means taking the plant off the well or saucer, pouring the solution into the pot, and then letting it drip out until it stops and then return the plant to the well or saucer. PLEASE MAKE SURE THE BONIDE TREE & SHRUB HAS NO FERTILIZER IN IT, WITH NO "FERTILIZER NUMBERS" on the bottle LIKE 2-2-1! It is available at Amazon.

By the way, I totally stopped using Marathon, as it just does not penetrate the deep corners that the mealybugs hide in. It is more expensive, and I see no reason to ever buy it again.

One word of warning, NEVER USE ANY NEONICOTINIDE (Imidacloprid) SOLUTION IN THE WELLS! Always drench the plant OFF of the mat or saucer, allow it to stop dripping, and only then place it back.

I spoke to Irina Nicholson, an AV grower, studied physics, and mathematics at Moscow State University to ask her opinions, and she had additional ideas on the treatment. These are her recommendations on drenching:

Drench - 3 times 10 days apart.

The reason - the eggs and developing larva of root mealy bugs is covered by a waxy material of the cocoon - so they are protected.

The practical advice:

Move your plants from trays to individual reservoirs. Even if you hand water them - move your pots on Mason jars - so water runs through and accumulates on the bottom. If there are mealybugs - you will see them in this water.

The reason. Older females move slowly and do not travel that much. Fresh emerging youngsters are very active and move from pot to pot, but they do not get too far if moving on a dry surface.

Males - have wings and fly - but most of the time females are quite good propagating asexually. So - one female mealy bug is enough to reproduce and infest the whole collection.

For those of you that want a more detailed list of the different treatments for mealybugs, these are the chemicals, and their brand names. This may overwhelm some of you, so do not dwell on it. It is primarily for the tech AV grower that wants to know every aspect of insect control and the latest list of the various treatments.

I did some research on Russian sites - they recommend several different drenches - most of them also based on neonicotinoids - also imidacloprid (Bayer Tree and Shrub, Bonide Tree and Shrub), acetamiprid, Calypso (new neonicotinoid by Bayer, didn't make it to US yet), an older Syngenta neonicotinoid Actara (Thiamethoxam) - and something that we can use here - fipronil, sold as a termiticide under the name Taurus SC. I recalculated the dose from Russian recommendations - should be 1/2 tablespoon per gallon.

I tried Taurus - and while it solves the current infestation - it doesn't affect the sleeper eggs - so a recurrence can happen in 3-6 months.

As you mentioned - some of them can be immune to one of the insecticides - so potentially the alternative treatment with 2 insecticides of the different class - can be more effective."

In addition, I spoke to entomologist Jenny Enchayan about whether they get in through the



soil, and she said typically it CANNOT come from the soil unless there are holes in the bag for them to invade. I have NOT heard reliable reports of mealies "hiding" in sealed bags of soil. There was one manufacturer that was suspected of having this problem, but all of the others appeared to be safe. However, watch out for holes in the bags that can allow insects into the medium.

I also got this link on Pritchard's mealy bugs:

<http://ipm.uconn.edu/documents/raw2/html/455.php?display=print>

I would like to thank Carolee Carter for her help, both technically and proofreading and also to Jenny Enchayan, and Irina Nicholson.

Neil Lipson is a full-time computer consultant. He can be reached by emailing him at ndlipson@gmail.com or calling (610) 356-6183 after 1 pm Eastern time. He will return your call.



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John Cook: Our Dear Friend

By Paul Kroll

I have known John and Barbara Cook since the 1970s. Their presence at African violet conventions was only the tip of the iceberg as their friendship and constant support were always there for anyone who needed it. Together they operated Cape Cod Violetry.

John was in charge of the supplies: pots, trays, fertilizer and anything else necessary to growing plants. He was innovative in so many ways, with having his own fertilizer made up without urea and packaging and marketing it with a reasonable price. He tried to purchase the molds used for several pots and terrariums, which are no longer available. He just missed obtaining them to keep them available for us.

Barbara was the grower and always had Saintpaulia species plants available for sale at their sales table. Barbara was in charge of the trinkets that always lured folks in to the sales area: whatever little violet things she could find, as well as sucker pluckers and other important tools we all needed.

John loved to talk! He always visited with me about his beloved Beagle dogs, their prowess at the raccoon trials, etc. He loved to fish and hunt as well. John was his own man and always accomplished his duties at odd hours, arriving late, leaving early, driving long hours in an old van, pulling a trailer full of supplies we all needed. The last time I visited with John about his business, he told me that many folks wanted him to have a website and do business that way. He



laughed and said, "I'm 80 years old; I want to do things my way, and I don't want to man a website! When would I be able to run my dogs and do the things I want to do?" That was John; always willing to help and continuously going the extra mile for the AV and gesneriad folks.

He was always at the Bay State, New York State, Ohio State, and most AVSA conventions; with a huge setup and everything we all wanted and needed. John was a great story-teller and loved to tell jokes. He and Bud Tapping (Betty's husband) were often called upon to be master of ceremonies at the NYSAVS conventions and did a great job.

Over the past ten years, whenever plant folks were together, the hue and cry began, "What will we do when John is not in business anymore? Who will take over the business?" There was talk several years ago that one of the family members was interested, but that did not come to pass. I think there was an overwhelming inventory to take on, and the younger folks were not willing to work so hard! Who knows?

John's consistent laugh, resiliency in all business affairs, prowess with all sorts of supplies and the overall eagerness to help are already missed. Barbara has had so very many health issues over the years that John took over the business at home and at the conventions. Their friends wish Barbara the very best in the years to come. We wish John god speed and all the rest he deserves. You are missed, our friend.



A Family Portrait

By Mel Grice

2019 Crosswind Ct. • Englewood, OH

Email: <melsgrice@earthlink.net

Kohleria 'Bud's Stacy Lynn'

Kohleria 'Bud's Stacy Lynn' is an example of one of my favorite gesneriads. The dark patterned foliage is attractive but when paired with the bold and bright orange hairy corolla and the broad and outward facing white face spotted with burgundy - the plant makes a strong statement. Brandon Erikson from Nebraska created this floriferous hybrid. *Kohleria* 'Emily Roberts x 'Peridots Kitlope' is the parentage.

Kohleria have rhizomatous root structures. Rhizomes are one of the three root structures found in gesneriads, the other two being fibrous only and tuberous. Rhizomes are actually modified stems and they grow perpendicular to the force of gravity. Scaly rhizomes are produced under the soil and above the soil coming from leaf axils when conditions are favorable. Scaly rhizomes often resemble pine cones and help the plants remain alive during the dry season in the wild. They perform the same function as a tuber or bulb so DO NOT discard the pot if the plant looks dead - it is only resting or dormant.

Kohleria propagation is by stem cuttings in water or mix. Stem cuttings root

very quickly, sometimes within days. Rhizomes can be planted whole, in pieces, or by removing individual scales and planting them. Bear in mind that some kohlerias are shy rhizome producers so



don't assume that a pot will be full of rhizomes when you want to propagate. Always take some stem cuttings to be sure.

A crucial factor in rhizome production is keeping the plants consistently well fed and watered. If excess drying occurs too early in the growth cycle, the plants may go dormant prematurely without producing any rhizomes for next year. That is why I try to have two or more pots of a variety growing so that I won't lose the variety if I occasionally forget to water a tray of plants. I try to place each pot in a different part of my plant room so that they are watered on different days. Most kohlerias do not have a required dormancy period like some gesneriads do. If pruned back to the soil level after flowering, they usually will sprout again immediately if they have made new scaly rhizomes. Thus,

they can be kept going throughout the year with the proper light and warmth levels.

The spectacular plant shown in the photo was exhibited by Brandon Erikson at the Gesneriad Society Flower Show last summer. He describes it as "a plant that is extremely easy to tame. Tends to stay very compact for me. Often, I can get a plant to stabilize at a



six to ten inch height and bloom up and down the entire length of the stem. The plant in the photo was grown on the top and middle shelves under regular T8 (4) bulbs at a height of 16 inches."



Photo Credit: Neil Lipson

Foxwood Trails

Grown by: Sandy Skalski

Hybridized by: T. Khoe

Semiminiature

Growing with Dimmable LED Lights

By Karin Peters

More and more growers are saying goodbye to their florescent lights in exchange for the convenience of LEDs. LED lights use less electricity, last longer, and are more cost effective. They also use substantially less heat making them safer, and I've noticed I don't get water spots on leaves.

Yet another advantage of LED's is that they are dimmable. This allows you to customize the amount of light for each shelf depending on their specific needs.

The dimmers also allow the lights to be closer to the plants. When I used florescent lighting on the same stand, I could only fit three shelves of plants as the plants had to be further away from the bulbs. **But now with my dimmable lights, they require less distance between shelves, which freed up room to add another whole shelf, which meant more plants coming in the mail!**

I've used the same LED light tape for over a year and my plants all seem very happy.



My Lighting Setup

Here is a plant stand filled with younger plants. **I have four, lighted shelves each at varying light strengths.** (I measure the light for each shelf with a light meter and each measurement is taken 6 inches below the light tape). My lights are on for 9-10 hours a day.

Shelf 1 (top)	260 fc (foot-candles)
Shelf 2	330 fc
Shelf 3	260 fc
Shelf 4	330 fc

This gives me a lot of flexibility to tailor the light needs of various plants. For example, I have several Russian and Ukrainian hybrids, which prefer cooler temperatures. As the floor is always the coolest part of any room, I put them on the bottom two shelves. Also, plants that need more variegation go to the bottom shelf. Lots of my Buckeyes and Cajun's are on the second (330 fc) shelf as they need more light.

If the crown of a plant on one of my 330 fc shelves looks tight, I move it to the end of that same shelf or to a 260 fc shelf. If a plant on the 260 fc shelf is reaching up, I send it to the middle of its current shelf or to a 330 fc shelf. **This gives me a lot of options to ensure plants are getting the correct amount of light.**

The LED light tape I use is 6000K which is pretty cool in terms of color. I haven't seen any negative affects and there is also warmer light tape if you want to alternate between cool and warm.

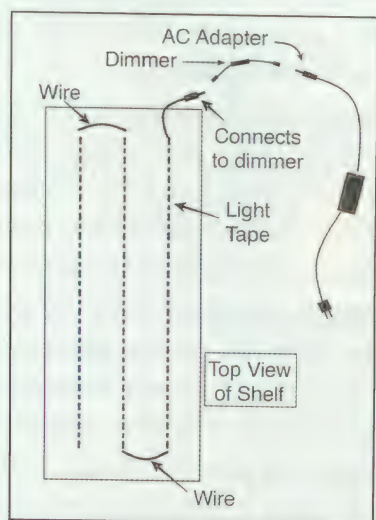


How to Set Up Your LED Lights

I use LED light tape which is sold on a long roll with an adhesive backing. On the tape,

there are marks every couple inches where you can cut the tape to customize the length for your shelf.

I cut the light strips to my desired length and planned for three strands of light per shelf about 4 inches apart. My dad taught me how to solder and I used old stereo wire to connect the strands at each end. (There are several YouTube videos that show you how to solder – I promise, it's easy!)



The end of each roll of light tape has an adaptor which I connected to a dimmer. The dimmer comes with its own remote control to change the light level. The end of that dimmer cable then connects to an AC adaptor, much like the power cord to your laptop.

Each shelf has its own dimmer and power adaptor. From there I put all 4 plugs into a power strip and connected that to my digital wall timer. You could have a couple different timers if you wanted to change the lighting duration for one shelf of show plants as you ramp up for a show.

Attaching the Lights to Your Shelves

On each of my shelves, I have transparent non-adhesive shelf liner. I simply taped the light tape to the underside of the shelf liner and between the wires with clear gorilla tape every 6 inches. They need a flat surface to adhere to. (The adhesive on

the back of the lights is not very strong, which is why I used additional tape). Another option is to get 2-inch plastic window blind slats and cut them to your shelf length. Then, tape the lights to the slats and then use cable ties to attach the slats to the underside of each shelf.



I wanted my lights to be completely flush to the bottom of the shelves because I like the fact that you can't see the lights sticking out.

There's only one negative to these lights I have found. Each dimmer has a separate remote that comes with it, but each remote affects all the dimmers equally. So, if I push the "On" button on one remote, not just one strand goes on, they all do. This can be a pain when I want to adjust the light intensity of one shelf. However, I just unplug the others first, adjust the light of the one shelf and re-plug the others in. Fortunately, I change my settings very seldom so this is not really a big issue.

The cost to light my 4-shelf plant stand was just under \$70 which included 4 power adapters, 4 dimmers and 2 spools of light tape.

I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have (Karin.m.peters@gmail.com). The exact details to the lights, dimmers, power cords, tape and shelf liner found at this link: <http://bit.ly/AVleds>



Learning from a Bad Experience: Last Minute Repotting of Show Plants

By Barbara Pershing • Cedar Falls, IA

We have all heard the 1/3 rule for proportion of plant size to pot size. The pot should be 1/3 the diameter of the plant. There are reasons for this. Too large a pot: roots cannot use the water that the soil will hold and will cause roots to die. Too small a pot: actually not as big a problem as they like to be root bound to bloom but they won't grow to be big show plants in tiny pots. Plants look better when the proportion of plant to pot is correct and points can be taken off at judging time for under-potting or over-potting.

Timing of repotting is important for show plants. DO NOT REPOT A SHOW PLANT INTO A LARGER POT WHILE PLANT IS SETTING BUDS. I am speaking from experience!! I replanted 'Annabelle' from a 6" pot to a 7 1/2" pot four weeks before show. While it had many blossoms, the blossoms were small and didn't open properly. But the roots looked great! The plant had filled the new soil mix with a great looking mass of new roots while it should have been developing the blossoms to their potential! Not only did I use a larger diameter pot, I also used a tall pot because I thought this would allow for the leaves to drop down a bit and not

touch the table when the ring was removed. This simply put it closer to the lights, which I think may have caused it to produce more buds rather than opening those already formed.

Show plants should be repotted in correct size pots 3 months BEFORE show time. Need a larger pot at show time? Wait until the blossoms are all open (a few days before show) and then carefully make a mold of moist soil in the larger pot, very carefully remove the plant from the pot without disturbing the roots and set the moist root ball into the larger pot. carefully spoon some fresh soil on top and give it a drink. It is very difficult not to get dirt on the leaves so give the plant a bath. If this is done carefully, just a few days before show, the plant will do fine. The blossoms are already established and open.

All of this hind-sight is bad enough when you see this 22" plant with great foliage with a miserable head of small half-opened blossoms, but when someone says to you, "This plant could have been Best in Show ..."

What is it they say? Experience is the best teacher!



Cajun's Sugar 'n' Spice

Exhibited by:
Belinda Thibodeaux
Hybridized by:
B. Thibodeaux
Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Mesmerizing Pink

Exhibited by:
Penny Smith-Kerker
Hybridized by: P. Sorano
Semiminiature

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

S. 8 clone Cha Simba

Best Species

Exhibited by: Carolee Carter

Subdue Maxx Fungicide on African Violets

By Ronn Nadeau

A recent article in this Magazine contains statements about Subdue Maxx® (SM, active ingredient 22% mefenoxam) that are incorrect and in disagreement with the official label for that fungicide. Every pesticide label, written by the manufacturer and approved by the US EPA, is written in plain English and can easily be accessed as a pdf file on the Internet. Below, the incorrect or misleading statements about SM are quoted in italics, and my label-based responses are in regular font.

"It is a drench not a spray and you give the pot a good drink once. It will not work to control powdery mildew and foliar fungi."

This statement is simply incorrect. The label lists three ways to apply SM: spray on foliage, spray on soil surface, and soil drench. I found SM to be very effective against mildew as a spray on foliage, and it helped me as a soil drench to solve a pythium problem. On p 18 of the label, where the name "African violets" is at the top of the list, the following statement appears: "Spray foliage thoroughly at a rate of 0.5-1.0 ounce per 100 gallons of water."

"I love Subdue Maxx for controlling soil borne fungus such as damping off and root rot. I use 1 drop per quart of water, along with a few drops of dawn, anytime I stick a leaf into new soil, or transplant using new untreated soil."

By applying at a rate of 1 drop of SM per quart of water, a user is treating his violets at a rate that is lower than stated on the label. To be specific, the label states rates of 0.5-1.0 ounces of SM per 100 gallons of water. Based on the conversion factors of 1 ounce equals 30 grams and 1 gallon equals 4 quarts, the label rate converts to 0.038-0.075 grams of SM per quart of water. I measured how much SM is released from various droppers and found weights in a narrow range, with an average of 0.026 grams per drop. Therefore, the author's suggested rate, about 0.026 grams per quart, is significantly lower than stated on the SM label. That

rate, in my opinion, might be insufficient for effective control of fungus on violets. Moreover, use of a too-low rate kills the weaker cells and allows the tougher ones to survive, thereby promoting pesticide resistance. It is unnecessary to add Dawn to an SM spray solution as it already contains a compatible wetting agent, as do practically all pesticides.

"It should not be used more than once in 6 months on the same soil pot."

The label has no restriction on how often Subdue can be applied.

"Never mix two different pesticides together, it may or may not work, but worse, any pest that survives has a much better chance of passing its genes to the next generation and building up resistance."

The label, in the section Flowers/Foliar Application, suggests using SM (Group 4) in mixtures with a non-Group 4 fungicide, or to rotate SM applications with a fungicide of a different Group, for resistance management.

Unfortunately, there are tons of misinformation about pesticides almost everywhere. Fortunately, there are two official sources of good information, namely the product's label and its MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet). The label tells how to use the product, including restrictions. The MSDS details the product's toxicity and safety. For example, the MSDS for SM shows that its female rat acute oral LD-50 is 2,965 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) of body weight, while the corresponding number for caffeine is 192 mg/kg of body weight. This means that SM is much less toxic than caffeine to female rats.

If you prepare your SM spray solutions with distilled water, there will be no post-spray evidence of its use, such as faded flowers or spots on foliage. I will answer questions about SM and other African violet topics by email at AVSEEDS@YAHOO.COM or at NadeausAfricanVioletSeeds.com.



Photo Credit: Neil Lipson

Jersey Trail

Grown by: Sandy Skalski

Hybridized by: R. Kurzynski

Semiminiature

AVSA – Building Maintenance Fund

Susan Hapner - *Chairman*

12916 Midfield Terrace • St. Louis, MO 63146



Thumbprint - Under \$25

Jo's Violets
Metropolitan St Louis AV Council
F. Eleanor Mattaliano
Helen Schafer
John K. Williams
Susan Frumerie
Franie E. Pletzer
Nancy Blewett
Virginia Barthelemy
Josane Wagner
Joan K. Wilson
Evelyn J. Boyer
Stephen Barber
Martin S. Wright
Geneva Stagg
Elizabeth D. Lebert
North Star AV Council



Two-Tone - \$25-\$49

Doreen Hassan
Johnnie Shepard
Mark Grigalunas
Tri-Counties AVS
In memory of John Cook
Leonard Re
*To thank Diane Miller for leaves and
supplies/re-start from my house fire*
Carol Semrau
In memory of Barry Hapner
Elizabeth Tan



Multicolor - \$50-\$99

Amethyst Violet Club
In memory of Marion Hamtil
John Novak



Geneva - \$100-\$499

Karen Plourde



**Mark Your
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Buffalo, NY
AVSA-AVSC
Convention
May 20 - 27, 2018**

Violet Tips

Let's Talk about Watering Consistently

By Kathy Bell

If you find your plants are not doing well or growing weird, are you sure you are doing everything right? Could it be your water, could it be you??? Of course it isn't you and you are doing everything right, you might want to get your water tested.

Water is one of the most important parts of growing any plant. Your water should have a pH of 6.5 to 7 for violets, my tap water is 8 and my rain water is 6.5. This is before fertilizer. Also test your water after you add fertilizer it brings the numbers down. Before watering make sure your water is room temperature. If it is too cold or too hot it can make funny marks on the leaves even if you don't get them wet.

If you collect rainwater off your roof wait until it rains enough that the water is clear. If it is your first time to use rainwater off the roof just try it on one violet for a month and make sure it is okay. Some roofs have chemicals that will come down with the rainwater and can kill your plants. Rain water should also be room temperature.

Do not use water that has been through a water softener.

Most important don't over water or under water, need to be consistent.

Most asked question: how often should I water? Try this, give your plants a good drink on Sunday,

by the following Monday you notice they are just starting to droop. That means you need to water every Sunday. Every house is different, this is a good way to figure out how often you should water. You may have to do this again when the seasons change.

If you wick water you need to keep your reservoirs full otherwise the wick dries out. Some growers let them dry out so the plant can get air to the roots (good idea). If you do let the reservoirs dry out, then water from the top to get the wick good and wet so it will start taking the water up again. Clean the reservoirs at least once a month to get the built up fertilizer out of the reservoir.

If you ever find your violet/plant is really drooping then water it without fertilizer, once it has recovered you can start watering with fertilized water again.

Consistency in watering is one of the most important things to remember about growing violets. It is very important to water on a regular basis to get that plant to perform!! Don't forget light, temperature, fertilizer, grooming, repotting, etc. also important. Happy growing.

Reprinted from the *Newsletter of Tucson African Violet Society*



PT-Iunaia Pastushka

Exhibited by:
Debbie McInnis
Hybridized by:
D. Ozherelyev /
T. Pugacheva
Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Rose Bouquet

Exhibited by:
Carol Chmiko
Hybridized by:
G. T. Smith
Standard

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Fail-Proof Leaf Propagation for African Violets

By Karin Peters

What I love most about African violets is starting out baby plants from leaves. It is exciting to see tiny leaves pop up from a leaf and eventually bloom for the first time! Because this is my favorite aspect of our hobby, I've had a lot of practice starting new plants from leaves.

What to Do When You First Get A Leaf

When you get a leaf home, you want to 'sanitize' it to ensure you don't run the risk of bringing in any unwanted pests, eggs or fungus that can infect your entire collection.

I always soak leaves for about 30 minutes in a 1:10 bleach and lukewarm water solution with a couple drops of blue Dawn dish soap. Be sure to submerge the entire leaf. After 30 minutes, rinse with lukewarm water and pat dry. This will cause no harm to the leaf.

What if the Leaf is in Bad Shape?

Translucent or Brown Spots – If the leaf has significant damage, it's best to trash it to avoid contaminating your collection. If you have just a few spots that you know is cold damage, cut off those spots to keep them from spreading.

Limp Leaves – Sometimes you will get a leaf in the mail that is completely limp. **The good news is that as long as it is still green, you can save it!**

First cut off a sliver of the end of the stem. In a bowl of lukewarm water, add about 2 teaspoons of sugar and 2-3 drops of SUPERthive. Mix well. Add the leaf to the bowl and completely submerge it. You can also put the bowl under low light. Keep the leaf submerged for anywhere from a couple hours to overnight. Before you know it, your leaf will look as good as new. **By using this method, I've never lost a dehydrated leaf.** When you are done, rinse the leaf and pat it dry.



Putting Down A Leaf

Once you have a healthy, green, hydrated leaf, you can "put it down", which means creating a culture where it can put down roots.

Cut the stem to about 1 inch and at the greatest angle possible. The wider circumference of a more angled cut allows room for more babies to grow!

Now, I put the leaf in water and wait for roots to start. I prefer this method to putting the leaf in soil initially. **With starting them in water, the leaves will take longer to start roots, but if you compare a 6-month old baby started in water to a 6-month old baby started in soil, you will see that the one started in water is a larger, healthier plant.**

I like to use glass candle votives to start roots. You can write the plant name on the side with a Sharpie and the writing will disappear in the dishwasher.

Leaves take about 14-18 days to start roots depending on the time of year. When the roots are about 1/4 inch long, it's time to put the leaves in soil!



Plant Your Leaves

I like to use 4 oz. condiment cups with large holes in the bottom as pots. I feel like leaves start babies faster when they are in the presence of other rooted leaves, so I put two or three leaves in each cup. Be sure to label them well.

Plant your leaf in the soil so it just covers the roots. Water the cup just slightly so it is barely damp and then squeeze the cup a couple of times to help aerate the soil. (I water leaves and babies with my usual fertilizer water).

The number one rule is to not let the soil get too wet. It should be just damp, comparable to a wrung-out sponge. Usually, the leaf pots that I somewhat neglect are the ones that do the best because they are dryer!

I like to put all of my leaf pots in plastic containers with some saran wrap over the top.



Humidity Is Your Friend

Once you put the saran wrap over the top of your container, vent it slightly on two corners. You want to see tiny mist-like droplets of humidity on the inside of the saran wrap. Leaves thrive in a high-humidity environment. However, if you see large water drops, you want to vent the container a little more. I sometimes secure my saran wrap with scotch tape to keep it in place.

Every Two Weeks...

After a couple weeks, check your leaves. I like to use a pipette to add a few drops of water to each container. Babies will start to appear after a few weeks. This is where some patience is required!



"Motivate" Babies to Grow

After I start to see baby leaves, I begin weaning the babies off the mother leaf. Every two weeks when I water them, I also cut a tiny sliver off the top of the mother leaf. This does a couple things: For one thing, it causes the baby to depend less on the mother leaf. Also, when the leaf is cut, it releases a small puff of Ethylene gas. When plant cells are broken or cut, they release ethylene gas. In nature, this seems to be a signal that a predator is feeding. **Theoretically, the plant responds by increasing the rate of photosynthesis in order to survive. Therefore, the babies respond to the ethylene gas by growing faster.**

Every two weeks, I also slightly squeeze each of my leaf pots. This helps to stimulate the roots and aerates the soil.

When Do You Cut Away the Mother Leaf?

When the baby leaves are mostly green and are larger than a dime, I cut away the mother leaf.



When Do You Separate the Babies?

I like to separate the babies when most of the baby leaves are the size of a quarter. If the babies seem especially cramped, I separate them sooner and plant them in 3 oz. solo cups.

Take your time and be very careful separating the babies from each other. I like to separate the leaves and leaf stems first and slowly separate the roots next.

I like to put my separated babies in a container with saran wrap similar to the leaf pots. When they have established stronger root systems, I slowly start to pull away the saran wrap to acclimate them to normal humidity. Then I wick them and put them with my other plants.

Troubleshooting Tips

What if the baby leaves are mostly white?

In my experience, these leaves green up as the

plants get older but you can also add Epsom salt water to speed up the process. Add 1 tsp of Epsom salt to a gallon of water and water as normal.

What is the white powdery substance on my leaves? That is most likely powdery mildew. I like to use Lysol spray (do not use the off-brand - ask me how I know!). Spray it in the air above the leaf. Then, let the spray drift onto the leaf. This will kill the powdery mildew and prevent it from coming back.

Why do my leaf's roots look thick and gnarled? Your soil is too moist. Let it dry out a little.

These are my best tips for starting baby plants from leaves. Follow these tips and you will have babies blooming before you know it. Sometimes the results might surprise you!



LE-Leto Krasnoe Sport

I'd be happy to answer any questions you have at Karin.m.peters@gmail.com





Photo Credit: Mel Grice

Jolly Moon Mist

Ohio State AVS 2017

Shown by: Debbie McInnis

Hybridized by: H. Pittman

Ten Basic Principles in Growing Show Plants

By Mary Stallings

Below I have outlined some ways to help you in developing your show plants. Do not hesitate to enter your violets in the show. Your participation is a responsibility to your club as it upgrades the show's score. Remember some plants will win blue ribbons, some red, some white; all cannot be blue ribbon winners. The important thing is to have a pretty, healthy plant you are proud of that will add a touch of beauty to the show.

I. Choice of a show plant

1. Choose a good variety that you like and will enjoy.
2. Try to choose a plant for each section of the show schedule.
3. Important qualities of a show plants:
 - a. Stay away from unnamed varieties. Be sure some are registered.
 - b. Plants with tailored leaves are the easiest to grow into a nice flat rosette, but ruffled foliage can be spectacular.
 - c. Double blossoms last longer.
 - d. Many new varieties of single blossoms are no longer free dropping.
 - e. Prolific bloomers are desired. The number of blossoms per peduncle should be nine or more for standard varieties.
 - f. Be sure the plant has a good center and is insect free.
 - g. The petioles should be strong enough to support the leaves.
 - h. A mature plant should have a good leaf pattern with each layer of leaves overlapping the petioles below without spaces between the leaves. No soil should be visible.
 - i. The beauty of new frills and blossoms, also variegated foliage is eye-catching.
 - j. The peduncle should be strong enough to hold the blossoms upright.
 - k. The leaves should grow out straight from the stem of the plant.

II. Care of the Young Plant

1. Small plantlets with root ball of 1-2 inches are adequate to plant in 2 1/4 - 2 1/2 inch pots.
2. Plant in center of pot.
3. Be sure the plant is level in the pot. Use opposite leaves as a guide. This is important to balance the ranks in a mature plant.
4. Allow those plants to bloom to determine if they are true.
5. Plastic pots should have holes burned in the sides to insure air circulation to the roots.
6. If wicking is used, the plant should be allowed to dry out about every 10 days to the point water is needed. Water with tepid water, then return to wicking. This allows the roots to get air and also washes down the accumulated salts.
7. When the plant is root-bound, transfer to a "Moist-Rite". The plant will be about 12" - 14" in diameter.

III. Space

1. Crowding plants results in the development of long, weak and twisted petioles.
2. Crowded plants provide ideal conditions for the development of foliage diseases.
3. Space is necessary to develop good symmetry.
4. Plants should not be allowed to touch each other. This prevents leaf damage.
5. Leaves should not be pinned down. The stems will grow straight from the stem if space and light are provided.
6. Leaf supports help in supporting and training the leaves.

IV. Lighting

1. A strong light must reach the crown of the plant to set buds.
2. Wide Spectrum/Gro-Lux Fluorescent lights should burn 12 hours a day.

3. Lights should be about 12 inches above the shelf.
4. Turn the plants 3-4 times a week. This helps to maintain a straight main stem.
5. Too much light will cause bleaching of the leaf color.

V. Humidity

1. Humidity of 50-60 percent is ideal.
2. Promotes larger blossoms.
3. Growth rate is increased.
4. Low humidity may cause dropping of buds.
5. The level of humidity may be raised by placing plants on trays filled with moist pebbles, moistening foliage frequently or adding a room humidifier.
6. Too high humidity without good air circulation may produce rot or mold.

VI. Temperature and Ventilation

1. At 50 degrees, a plant will not grow.
2. 60 - 70 degrees is ideal.
3. High temperatures may cause blasting of buds, streaking of blossom color, yellowing of leaves and speeds up the activities of insects.
4. Ventilation provides circulation of air, which is important in preventing the development of disease organisms. The leaf surface continuously loses water vapor and oxygen and allows the entrance of carbon dioxide. This is necessary in supplying food for growth.
5. Temperature below 60 degrees for a period of time may cause brittle foliage, which curves down; also deformed blossoms.

VII. Watering

1. Use slightly warm (tepid) water to prevent shocking the feeder roots.
2. Use water direct from the faucet unless it goes through a water softener.
3. *Moist* is the word to describe the water content of the soil.
4. Growth problems result from both over-watering and under-watering.
5. Apply only tepid water to a plant that is dry; allow 24 hours for the plant to recover.
6. Learn the analysis of your water supply.

VIII. Soil

1. Use a loose, porous soil with good drainage. Most commercially prepared soils are excellent.
2. Be sure the soil is free from harmful diseases, insect eggs and weed seed. This may be accomplished by pasteurizing the soil (bake 30 minutes at 180 degrees) or by use of chemicals.
3. The pH of the soil should be 6.5 - 7. This is important as it controls the availability of food to the plant. Water, fertilizers and chemicals have a marked effect on pH when added to the soil. The pH should be checked about every three months as decomposing of soil elements alters the acidity.
4. Use slightly moist soil when potting.

IX. Fertilizers

1. The soil and the fertilizer should be compatible to be sure the plant receives proper nutrients.
2. Apply fertilizer only when the soil is damp.
3. Set up a regular program of feeding and do not increase the fertilizer before show time. This will result in tight, burned centers or an interrupted growth pattern.
4. One tablespoon of super-phosphate added to the watering jug about four months before the show will help increase the development of roots and blossoms. It will change the pH of the soils super-phosphate has a pH of 2. It will also increase the growth of algae in a "Moist-Rite".

X. Cautions and Cleanliness

1. Isolate and spray all new plants before adding to your collection. (I remove all buds and Blossoms.)
2. Use 1/4 teaspoon Orthene to one quart of water; spray under the leaves and pour the solution on soil until it is saturated.
3. Keep the plants free of dust and soil. They interfere with plant growth and aid in the spread of disease. Wet soil particles may cause marred foliage.

4. Wash the leaves under slightly warm running water. Remove excess water with a sponge. Use mild soap solution to remove spray marks.
5. Observe your plants often. Look for insects or their signs; change in the blossoms; changes in leaf size, shape or color, and suckers.
6. Yellow leaves are usually the result of cultural problems or pests. Check pH of soil and root system.
7. Remove all spent blossoms and stems, aging leaves and suckers.
8. Add 3-4 drops of mild detergent in the misting water to help deter some insects.
9. Be careful in changing your cultural methods. Have a clear understanding of

- how and why it may improve your plants. Experiment on one or two plants.
10. Give your plants the essentials they need to be strong healthy plants that will be able to resist disease and pest invasion.
11. Beware of cut flowers brought in from the garden.
12. Fungus gnats are vehicles, which will spread insects and disease among your plants. Saturation of the soil with Orthene will eliminate them.
13. Beware of the advice you receive on growing violets. Be sure the individual has demonstrated the horticultural knowledge and perfection you are seeking.



Culture Nuggets

By Barbara Burde

Grooming your plants: Every couple weeks your grooming should include placing the plant on a table or the floor where you can look down on it. This is the best way to see how its symmetry is - you can never accurately judge this while looking at the plant from the side! If the plant is tilted, you need to be turning it more often. If you have some leaves out of place, you can start training them into their proper places. This involves nudging them over. If it needs to be moved quite a bit then do it in stages - move the leaf about 1/4 inch, hold it in its new position for a week or so, then repeat this

until you have the leaf where needed. There are several methods for holding the leaf in the new position. Most of them involve putting some sort of stake into the soil near the edge of the pot, so that the leaf stem (petiole) rests against it and is held there. You can use large cocktail picks (plastic or wood), wooden skewers, or popsicle sticks. Another method is to use a spring type clothes pin to grasp the edge of the pot. This is only good if the clothes pin doesn't interfere with any other leaves.

From the *California Council News*



Photo Credit: Mel Grice

Tiny Blue

Ohio State AVS 2017

Shown by: Penny Wichman

Hybridized by: L. Lyon

NEW in the AVSA STORE
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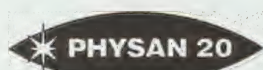
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The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November.

Periodical postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a non-profit organization at 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 and at additional mailing offices.

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African Violet

July • August

Volume 71

Number 4

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Best in Show / Best Standard African Violet /
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To Be Announced, Publication Chairman

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

President's Message

By Richard Nicholas - *President*

3113 Deerfield Dr. • Denton, TX 76208

Email: randanicho@aol.com

AVSA Friends

I am writing this column just after returning from our AVSA national show in Buffalo, NY. This convention, held jointly with our Canadian friends of the AVSC, was a wonderful experience. High quality plants to see – and buy. Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to all who entered. There were, of course, interesting workshops, important meetings, tours, etc. But most of all there were violet people! AVSA has so many wonderful people that we become a family. We loved it. Show winners and more information appears elsewhere in this issue and the next. Everyone who attended owes a huge “thank you” to Judy Niemira and Julie Thompson, convention co-chairs; Deb Donaldson and Beverley Williams show co-chairs, and their team for a well-organized, well-run show.

At the Buffalo convention, a number of changes were announced. Most importantly, AVSA has hired a new editor for the AVM! Teresa Odle, from New Mexico, is joining us effective July 1. She is a very experienced editor and writer who seems excited to get started. She will be writing



an introduction soon. A new Editorial Board has been appointed, chaired by Paul Kroll, to assist and advise the new editor. NOTE: We need members to write articles to help the new editor as she begins! What would you like to see in the AVM? Right now, write now.

A new Marketing Committee is underway – a committee whose purpose is to expand AVSA's visibility and reputation – under the leadership of past president Joyce Stork. We can all look forward to new work from these groups.

At the membership meeting I announced that we are considering options for the office in Beaumont. We still have storm damage and growing neighborhood security problems. We may no longer need such a large building for our headquarters. We hope to have options to announce this fall.

And now, it is not too early to start planning to attend the 2019 AVSA national show in Houston, TX. Whether you love to show plants or never do, just come for the fun! Join the family – a family where Violets Connect Us!

Richard



Editor's Notes

By Teresa Odle, *AVM Editor*

P.O. Box 1828 • Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346

Email: tgodle311@gmail.com

African Violet Magazine Editor

I am honored and excited to be chosen as the next editor of *African Violet* magazine. I am looking forward to working with AVSA members and officers to continue to include relevant, informative and interesting content for readers. In the past, I have edited newsletters and journals for national nonprofit societies and have always considered my audience's needs and desires a top priority; I can't wait to connect with AVSA members and committees.

For about 10 years, I have been a member of the Association for Garden Communicators (GWA), which has helped me improve my skills and experience communicating about plants, plant care and plant varieties with a broad audience. In addition, I am certified as an editor in the life sciences, which emphasizes an understanding of editing technical and scientific content. I hope to bring these and other writing and editing skills to the job. Few experiences, however, have brought me in



touch with a group of people more passionate about a plant or hobby as I have witnessed so far in AVSA members.

Currently, I live in the mountains of southeastern New Mexico, working from home and working outside with my husband to manage our gardens and small orchard. I realize I have much still to learn about AVSA and that Ruth Rumsey will be a

tough act to follow, but I will do my best.

Most of all, I look forward to meeting all of you and I would like to thank the members of the search committee for their thorough and professional search process.

Teresa Odle

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Summer has definitely arrived in Texas and we are back from a great joint convention in Buffalo, NY. This year there were 339 registrants and over 60 first time attendees. The show was beautiful and we had several vendors selling plants and supplies. Our wonderful volunteers helped make the convention a success! I would like to thank **Fay Wagman, Barb Festenstein, Laura Buckner, Charles Ramser, Sallie Barlow, Anne Nicholas, Maureen Pratt and Elmer Godeny** for helping with the registration desk. I really appreciate it!! A big thanks goes to **Candace Baldwin** for not only helping at registration, but she also set up an informational meeting for first time attendees. Candace is always willing to lend a helping hand, and for that I will always be grateful! **Candace, Libbie Glembocki, and Linda Kilby** stepped up and helped with the Luncheon/Auction. You ladies ROCK! A special thanks goes to **Ron Davidson** for always volunteering to help haul all the convention supplies to and from the convention! Also, thank you to the **Convention Chairs** and all the local volunteers that helped make the convention great!

Glenda Williams did an amazing job running the AVSA Sales table while also helping her husband, **Jim Williams** at the Ways and Means table. Your help was very appreciated!!



Kathy Lahti, AVSA Convention Director, made sure we had a great location and did a fantastic job of making sure everyone enjoyed the convention.

I would like to invite you all to our Annual Convention and Show next year in Houston, TX. The convention will be held May 26 - June 2, 2019 at the Houston Marriott Westchase. More information will be published on our website in January.

We now have the 2019 AVSA calendar available for sale on the website. Please visit our website store for more information www.avsa.org/store-calendars.

New Shipping Charges: As postage continues to increase, we will be charging a flat rate shipping charge of \$5.00 on all orders that have to be shipped. This will begin July 15th.

Attention Members: The way you login to the member's section of the website has now changed. To login, use your membership number and your last name spelled exactly, including punctuation and capital letters, as it is on your African Violet Magazine label. If you have any questions, please contact the AVSA office.

I hope everyone enjoys their summer and I hope to see all of you next year in Houston, TX!



In Memory

Judy Hess was a very special person and friend to those who knew her. She belonged to several African violet societies in Wisconsin including the Milwaukee AVC(now

defunct), Crosstown AVC(Madison), Oshkosh Violet Society, and Wisconsin Council of African Violet Club's. She held offices in all three societies. Her generosity and friendship will not be forgotten.

2018 Contest Winners!!

By Pat Hancock

The 2018 Contest is over and Paul Kroll announced the winners at the Saturday Night Banquet.

- 1st Place Josh McKinney
"How To Build A Plant Stand"
- 2nd Place Christopher Paiva
"Making The Green While Talking
Dirt in the Workplace"
- 3rd Place Vicky Ferguson
"The Importance of Publicity"

Congratulations to all the winners

The New 2019 Contest is now under way and the following people have graciously agreed to furnish the prizes.

1. Hunters Violets
2. Kay's Violets
3. Buckeye Violets
4. Carolina Violets
5. Steffano's Violets
6. Linda Hall (Bustle Backs)
7. Jeff Jackson (Imps)
8. Jay Sespico (Gesneriads)

The new panel of judges will be headed by Sue Hoffman and includes Mel Grice, Pat Gibson, Linda Sumski, and Bob Clark.

Everything is up to you. Write some great articles and let's make our magazine even better this coming year.



Steffano's Starry Eyes



Trio of Hunter's Miniatures



*Steffano's Starry
Eyes Bloom Cluster*



Steffano's Azure Diamonds



Hunter's Muy Grande



Jitterbug Begin The Beguine



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Best Container Garden

Best Dish Garden

Exhibited by: Lee Hoke

In Search of New Violets

Dr. Jeff Smith - *The Indiana Academy*

Ball State University • Muncie, IN 47306

Email: JSmith4@bsu.edu

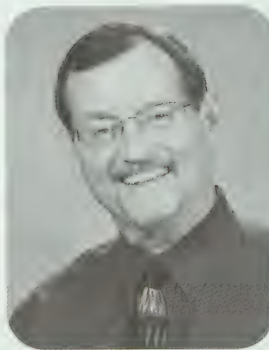
Have you ever had an African violet that instead of having a single round growing point that produced leaves, the growing point elongated into an oval and leaves emerged at various points along the oval? If you have, this growth abnormality is known as "Zippering." The name comes from the arrangement of leaves along the edges like teeth in a zipper. Zippering can happen to any African violet cultivar, although some appear to be much more likely to zipper than others.

The growing point of a stem is known as the apical meristem. This growing area is usually circular in shape. At different intervals around the circumference of the circle, cells divide a bit faster and develop into leaves. Growers will often talk about African violet leaves being in groups of threes when shaping a plant for show. The leaves are actually produced one at a time from the apical meristem, but they are usually positioned around the circumference of the growing area at very regular intervals.

Zippering occurs when the apical meristem changes from a circular shape to an elongated oval. The oval still produces leaves along the circumference, but they are no longer spaced at regular intervals. If the oval elongates enough, it may appear that a line of separate apical meristems have developed, each producing their own layers of leaves. You can try to pluck out the extra apical meristems, but once a plant has zippered, it is nearly impossible to prune it back to a single circular apical meristem.

Q: Is zippering inherited?

A: Zippering is probably due to a genetic mistake and some cultivars are certainly known for zippering easily. For example, some of the older bustled foliage plants such as 'Pink Fly' often zipper. However, leaves taken from a zippered plant can produce normal babies. Some of these may eventually show zippering, but others may grow



normally. The genetic component to zippering is unclear.

Many growers immediately pitch any plant that shows a zipper. Hybridizers usually shy away from using a zippered plant in hybridizing. I haven't seen any data to indicate that zippering is actually an inherited trait, but most hybridizers are unwilling to take the risk. There is

enough challenge in getting improved offspring when hybridizing, so why risk a known defect such as zippering in your cross?

Q: How can I cross to get variegated girl foliage?

A: You can reach this goal in one generation. Use a variegated plant as your seed parent. Either a Tommie Lou or Crown variegated plant will work. Use a girl foliage plant as the seed parent. The outcome should be 100% variegated offspring. About half will have girl foliage and about half will not.

Q: I tried a cross using a girl foliage plant as a parent, but only about 20% of the offspring had girl foliage. Is there a problem using this trait that reduced the outcome of girl foliage offspring?

A: Girl foliage plants tend to be smaller and slower growing than non-girl foliage seedlings. If you selected the biggest and fastest growing seedlings in your cross, you may have selected against the girl foliage offspring. Another possibility is your sample size in growing out the offspring. If you only grew out a small number of the seedlings, say 10 or less, probability could have shifted your outcome to few than 50% girl foliage offspring. I doubt that there was a "problem" in using the girl foliage trait, but it would be easy to shift the outcome by accident if you weren't aware that girl foliage seedlings are smaller and slower growing.

Q: Why do young girl foliage leaves look different from the adult leaves?

A: The mutation for girl foliage causes the margins or edges of the leaves to keep growing.

The additional leaf material folds and causes the lobes or ruffles characteristic of much girl foliage leaves. Young leaves have had less time to grow and have less material to build into a lobe or ruffle. Mature leaves have accumulated more material and will have more lobes or ruffles. This difference in the amount of leaf material in the edges causes the differences in appearance between young and mature girl foliage leaves.

Q: I am not a big fan of semi-double flowers. I think the little extra petal just looks silly. How can I select against this trait?

A: I would suggest crossing your semi-double flowered plant with a nearly identical plant that has double petals or stick-tight flowers. You might even be lucky using a dropper in this case if you can find one. If you can match most of the other characteristics such as flower shape, color, and plant form between the two parents, you should have a good chance of conserving those desirable traits. A double flower may be hard to work with because of the lack of stamens and anthers. If the pistil seems viable, you can try using the double flower plant as the seed parent and the semi-double plant as the pollen parent. Most of the offspring should have double petals. Using a stick-tight flowering plant will likely get you a range of outcomes in the offspring, but some should miss the semi-double trait. A single dropper crossed with a semi-double can still produce full double flowers (or at least they did when I was working with species plants).

Q: After pollinating, how long before the seed pod swells?

A: If the pollinating was successful, you should see the base of the pistil start to swell or elongate into the seed pod within 4-10 days. The timing is quite variable depending on the genetics of the seed pod or fruit, and environmental conditions. The more successful the pollination, the more seeds that are produced, and generally the larger the seed pod will become.

Q: Should the petals dry up or turn brown if the pollination is successful? Do the petals need to be removed?

A: Petals may remain fully colored during the maturation of the seed pod, or they dry up and turn brown. If the petals had any green or green edging they are more likely to remain colored while the seed pod matures. It is not necessary to remove the petals after pollination, but many hybridizers do trim them so they can see the seed pod and not mistake it for a "dead flower" that should be groomed off the plant. Most violets are not droppers so don't expect the petal material to detach on its own. I usually leave the dead petals alone, but may gently trim or remove them if there are signs of mold. The mold could spread to the seed pod and ruin it. Probably the most important factor is to make sure your tag or label is prominent enough so you don't accidentally remove a maturing seed pod. Many a hybridizer has groomed a plant and accidentally pulled off a maturing seed pod. Since the seed pods generally take 5-7 months to mature, you hate to lose a cross through accidental grooming.



Registration Report

By Joe Brun

1220 Stratford Lane • Hanover Park, IL 60133

Email: jbruns@qwip.net

Reinhold Holtkamp Sr. – Nashville, TN

'Optimara California III' (10942) 02/03/2018 (R. Holtkamp Sr.) Single-semidouble dark red frilled pansy. Medium green, ovate, glossy, wavy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

'Optimara Dali II' (10943) 02/03/2018 (R. Holtkamp Sr.) Single-semidouble pink fluted star/white eye. Medium green, plain, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

'Optimara Hiroshige II' (10944) 02/03/2018 (R. Holtkamp Sr.) Single-semidouble lilac and white fluted pansy. Medium green, quilted, wavy, serrated. **Standard**

'Optimara Millennia II' (10945) 02/03/2018 (R. Holtkamp Sr.) Single-semidouble white frilled pansy/red patches on lower petals. Medium green, heart-shaped, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

'Optimara Puerto Rico' (10946) 02/03/2018 (R. Holtkamp Sr.) Double pink ruffled pansy/variable thin white-green edge. Medium-dark green, plain, pointed, hairy/red back. **Standard**

'Optimara Trinidad II' (10947) 02/03/2018 (R. Holtkamp Sr.) Double lilac-purple two-tone frilled pansy/variable thin white-green edge. Medium-dark green plain, pointed, hairy/red back. **Standard**

'Optimara Yosemite II' (10948) 02/03/2018 (R. Holtkamp Sr.) Double light blue, white, and green ruffled star. Medium green, hairy, wavy, serrated. **Standard**

'Rhapsodie Andrea' (10949) 02/03/2018 (R. Holtkamp Sr.) Single fuchsia-magenta sticktite fluted pansy/white eye. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

'Rhapsodie Anika' (10950) 02/03/2018 (R. Holtkamp Sr.) Single-semidouble white frilled pansy/coral-pink patches on lower petals. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, hairy, wavy, serrated. **Standard**



'Rhapsodie Michèle' (10951) 02/03/2018 (R. Holtkamp Sr.) Single light pink sticktite frilled pansy/ raspberry fantasy and sparkle edge. Medium green, ovate, serrated. **Standard**

'Rhapsodie Rita' (10952) 02/03/2018 (R. Holtkamp Sr.) Single-semidouble white-light pink ruffled pansy/red patches, lighter on upper petals. Medium-dark green, ovate, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

'Rhapsodie Susi II' (10953) 02/03/2018 (R. Holtkamp Sr.) Single-semidouble white frilled pansy/wide coral-pink edge. Medium green, ovate, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

Martin Holtkamp – Nashville, TN

'Optimara Connecticut II' (10954) 02/03/2018 (M. Holtkamp) Single lilac two-tone sticktite pansy/darker streaks, thin purple edge. Medium-dark green, ovate/red back. **Small standard**

'Optimara Crater Lake II' (10955) 02/03/2018 (M. Holtkamp) Double dark blue pansy. Medium green, ovate, glossy. **Standard**

'Optimara Little Trio' (10956) 02/03/2018 (M. Holtkamp) Single-semidouble white pansy/lilac streaks, green edge. Medium green, plain, pointed, serrated. **Miniature**

'Optimara myDarling' (10957) 02/03/2018 (M. Holtkamp) Single white sticktite frilled pansy/blue eye and streaks. Dark green, plain, pointed, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**

'Optimara myHeart' (10958) 02/03/2018 (M. Holtkamp) Single white sticktite pansy/wide red eye. Medium-dark green, heart-shaped, pointed, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

'Optimara mySensation' (10959) 02/03/2018 (M. Holtkamp) Single white sticktite fluted pansy/green edge. Medium green, ovate, glossy, wavy, scalloped. **Standard**

'Optimara Rocky Mountain II' (10960) 02/03/2018 (M. Holtkamp) Double pink and white pansy. Medium green, pointed, glossy, wavy. **Standard**

'Optimara Sequoia II' (10961) 02/03/2018 (M. Holtkamp) Double pink two-tone pansy. Medium green, plain, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

'Optimara Smoky Mountains II' (10962) 02/03/2018 (M. Holtkamp) Double blue and white pansy. Medium green, heart-shaped, glossy. **Standard**

'Rhapsodie Ingrid' (10963) 02/03/2018 (M. Holtkamp) Double light pink star/darker eye. Medium-dark green, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**

'Rhapsodie Lucia' (10964) 02/03/2018 (M. Holtkamp) Single-semidouble white-lilac pansy/blue-purple upper petals. Medium-dark green, pointed, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**

Leo Lee – New Taipei City, Taiwan

'Dream Girl' (10965) 03/30/2018 (L. Lee)

Semidouble-double dark blue star/pink puff fantasy, random white streaks. Dark green, scalloped, girl foliage. **Small standard**

'Happy Sky Lanterns' (10966) 03/30/2018 (L. Lee) Single chimera light blue bell wasp/white stripe. Light green, scalloped, girl foliage. **Semiminiature**

'Perfect Girl' (10967) 03/30/2018 (L. Lee) Single white star/some blue on edges. Light green, pointed, girl foliage. **Semiminiature**

'Sky Diamonds' (10968) 03/30/2018 (L. Lee) Single lavender sticktite ruffled bell pansy/pink puff fantasy. Medium-dark green, serrated/red back. **Standard**

'Sky Lanterns' (10969) 03/30/2018 (L. Lee) Single white bell wasp. Light green, girl foliage. **Semiminiature**

REGISTRATION CHANGE

The following has been changed at the request of the hybridizer:

'Kev's Plum Surprise' (10871) Change blossom description from sticktite single to "Single-semidouble pansy ..."

Optimara myDesire

Exhibited by: Marie Gagnon

Hybridized by: M. Holtkamp
Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Honoring Our Outstanding AVSA Members

Susan Hill • Chair
AVSA Society Awards

Honorary One-Year Memberships

Recipient: Linda Price

The African Violet Society of America would like to thank Linda Price for her outstanding leadership as Convention Chair for the 2017 AVSA Convention: "Florida: Gateway to the Tropics" in Orlando, Florida.

For her service, she is receiving an AVSA One-Year Honorary Membership.

Recipient: Thad Skaggs

The African Violet Society of America would like to thank Thad Skaggs for his outstanding leadership as Show Chair for the 2017 AVSA Convention: "Florida: Gateway to the Tropics" in Orlando, Florida.

For his service, he is receiving an AVSA One-Year Honorary Membership.

Recipient: David Kesler

Our next recipient wrote a First Class program for Mac users! Not only did he write that, but he's also written a program for the iPhone!

The iPhone app is a reader-only, using data already on the internet and a wi-fi connection. This allows access to the First Class program when away from the computer, for instance, at a show, or in the plant room.

In recognition of his achievements, David Kesler is awarded an AVSA One-Year Honorary Membership.

AVSA Continuing Service Award

Recipient: Laurene Jones

Our recipient of the AVSA Continuing Service Award joined AVSA and the Old Dominion AVS in 1973. She became an AVSA judge in 1974, a

lifetime judge and teacher in 1983, and an AVSA Master Judge in 1998. She is an AVSA Life Member. She became an AGGS judge in 1976 and earned her Gesneriad Master Judge qualification in 1983.

She attended her first AVSA convention in 1975 and has judged at every convention show that Bill Foster can remember. He used her knowledge for judging Gesneriads and trailers when they were still quite new to AVSA shows. She served as Ways & Means Chair for two years under L.T. Ozio, and also as a member of the AVSA Library and Photography committee beginning at the AVSA St. Louis convention in the mid-1970s through 2000 as a runner, then photographer. She is the current AVSA Resolutions Chair. In 1988 she received an AVSA One-Year Honorary Membership Award.

She wrote the design schedules for both the Raleigh and Nashville AVSA conventions. She has given programs and taught classes on beading African Violet flowers at several AVSA conventions in addition to serving on program panels answering questions about growing African Violets and making the best soil mixes.

She is a member of the Potomac Council of African Violet judges and has served in each office of the organization. She is also a member of Old Dominion AVS and has served as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, and President. She was their newspaper editor for six years, show chair, and ran the Old Dominion plant sales. She is a charter member of the Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society serving as Vice President for six years, Secretary for two years and became a life member in 2005.

AVSA is pleased to award Laurene Jones the AVSA Continuing Service Award.

AVSA Distinguished Service Award

Recipient: Ron Davidson

Our recipient of the AVSA Distinguished Service Award has served as Past President of AVSA from 2009-2011 and continues to be very active in the First AVS of Dallas, the North Texas African Violet Council, and the Lone Star African Violet Council. He is a Master Judge and currently serves on the AVSA Shows and Judges Committee in which he is the Commercial Representative. He also currently serves on the AVSA Commercial Committee. He was Convention Chairman for the 2014 Nashville (Tennessee) Convention and received an honorary one-year membership. A little known fact is that he volunteers to take office supplies to and from the conventions each year. This service is greatly appreciated and saves AVSA postage costs.

AVSA is pleased to award Ron Davidson the AVSA Distinguished Service Award.

Mabel and Glenn Hudson Memorial Award

Recipient: Beverley Williams

Our recipient for Mabel and Glenn Hudson Memorial Award has been a member of the Lakeshore African Violet Society of Toronto since 1976. She immediately joined AVSA and began entering shows, winning blue ribbons which allowed her to become a judge. She eventually became one of the youngest Master judges in Canada. She recently hosted an AVSA judging school for twelve participants in her home. She has been an executive member for longer than

anyone can remember, assuming any duty assigned to her with competence and positive energy. She shares her experiences with growing and showing by talking about the many aspects of growing African Violets. She also generously shares new varieties which she gains at all the conventions she attends. She recently produced a webinar for the Gesneriad Society on growing *Petrocosmeas*. No task is too complicated for her. Although she has to travel one-hour and a half, she is usually the first to arrive at the meeting and the last to leave, locking the door behind her.

She has been Show Chair for at least ten years and has assumed the supervision of all aspects with friendly competence and skill. At the last show, the member responsible for the Court of Honor did not show up in time, so she put together a completely professional Court of Honor using available material. She has won Best of Show many times with her prize-winning entries. She is willing to hop in and help at any show she attends. At a recent New York State Show, she supervised the placement of entries. At the AVSA Convention Show in Detroit, she was the AVSC Representative who supervised the show entries in the Canadian classes. At the Buffalo AVSA Show, she is the Show Chair, representing AVSC.

Apart from her many duties at the Lakeshore Society, she supervises the many shows each month at the Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society. She is also serving on the Board of AVSC as the Advertising Chair and Director.

AVSA awards Beverley Williams the Mabel and Glenn Hudson Memorial Award.

TIP!

For best results, repot plants into same-size clean pot unless it's a seedling moving up, every three to four months. *AVSA Judges Handbook*

Wedding Violets

By Anne Nicholas

Photos by: Tom and Libbie Glembocki



Mary Craig as a bridal bouquet on the plant stand at the home of Anne and Richard Nicholas.



Helen Mahr Nicholas holds the Maid of Honor bouquet "Lonestar Helen Mahr" at her granddaughter's wedding.

In December of 2008, our daughter, Laura, married Brian. It is hard to believe that the wedding was 10 years ago. They now have blessed us with two granddaughters, one 8 and one 6 years of age. When Laura and Brian were married, Laura wanted African Violets as the wedding flowers for herself and her attendants. AVSA friends Tom and Libbie Glembocki did all the photography for the wedding. In March after the wedding, I wrote an article for the AVM showing the flowers, how they were assembled, and Tom and Libbie did a set of photos to accompany the article. The year following the wedding, when Joyce and Kent Stork visited Russia, they brought back the Russian African violet magazine where the article had been translated and republished in Cyrillic. We have had requests for the article to be re-run, so here it is!

Our daughter, Laura, grew up with African violets all around her. In Tennessee, she learned to crawl among violets in the window. Then we moved to San Antonio, TX, and she and her friends played around violets which by then had grown to a collection that needed two plant stands. Violets were the subject of her science fair exhibits in middle school. By the time she was in high school in Indiana, the room across the hall from her room was full of only violets. Then came college, graduate school, and a first 'real job.' She had a couple of violets that she would ask her dad to re-pot at each visit. A move to Kansas for a new job also led her to meet Brian. They became engaged, and set a wedding date. It was natural and no big surprise that Laura wanted herself and her attendants to carry African violets.



Laura and Brian for the first time as Mr. & Mrs. begin their walk into a new life. Laura is carrying the African Violet "Mary Craig" and Brian's boutonniere contains Mary Craig blossoms and leaves.



Bridesmaid Mackenzie poses with the wedding bouquet "Buckeye Beauty" in front of the Nicholas plant stand.



Groom Brian poses with the bridesmaids and the African Violet Bouquets. From left to right, Buckeye Beauty, Frozen in Time and Lonestar Helen Mahr.



"Frozen in Time" all dressed up in lace, ribbons and beads ready to be a bridal bouquet.



The groom's boutonniere consisted of blossoms from Mary Craig surrounding a single rose placed over Mary Craig leaves.

The wedding was set for early December. We identified a group of eight smaller standards that we would grow for the bridal and the three attendant bouquets. The attendant dresses were a dark purple so Laura said she would like to carry a violet whose blossoms would closely match the attendants' dress color. We decided on the plant, 'Mary Craig', to be the bridal bouquet violet. The Maid of Honor wanted a pink violet, her favorite color. That plant would be Lonestar 'Helen Mahr', a pink and white plant hybridized by Richard and named after his mom. The other two plants were not immediately decided. We would wait to see what came into bloom at the right moment. In the early summer, we put this group of plants on a 'grow to show' schedule.

Now the big job was to design a 'bouquet' that would encompass the entire potted plant. Richard and I grow our plants in white plastic pots which would have to be disguised. I decided to make 'lace baskets' that would fit around each pot. The basket would have a space into which to place the pot, an edge that would serve as a support for the leaves, and would provide a surface texture that would not be as likely to slip when being held. Richard identified the pot sizes that would be matches for the plants being considered. Using lace fabric and "Stiffy," I made a variety of baskets with the largest being able to fit around a 4 1/2" pot, the size of 'Mary Craig's' pot.

As the wedding became closer, we watched closely the blooming of the plants – which were going to be 'the ones?' At this point, the process was much like watching plants coming into bloom on a show schedule. We had two 'Mary Craig' violets; one was totally out of consideration, placing our hopes on the remaining one. 'Lonestar Helen Mahr' was looking great, but the other two were still a mystery. I don't know how many times we stood in front on our plant stands, peering to see if buds were appearing. The deadline of a wedding is worse than the deadline of a show! After much

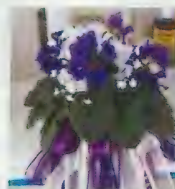
consideration, we decided that Buckeye 'Beauty', and 'Frozen in Time' would complete the quartet of plants.

As with any show plant, I knew that I would have to slip pot the plants. The slip pot became the pot to which I attached the ribbon streamers. Because each set of ribbon streamers complemented the blossom colors of each individual violet, each bouquet would be a different color. I also made ribbon and rhinestone inserts to be placed among the blossoms of each violet. These inserts would enhance the color of the blossoms and would add a little sparkle to each bouquet. The three bridesmaids' bouquets were similar in size; growing in 3 1/2" pots. The bride's bouquet was larger. I also made a silk bouquet that would become the 'throwing' bouquet. Everything was ready for the big day.

On the morning of the wedding day, we trimmed the wicks of the plants so they would not be too bulky in the slip pot. I trimmed the lace baskets to be similar to the circumference of the plants. The blooming plants were then placed into the slip pots that already had ribbon streamers. I used double sided Velcro to stick the lace basket to the slip pot to keep them together as they were tilted and carried down the aisle. The sparkly ribbon inserts were carefully placed between the blossoms and down into the soil. The results were four very different, very lovely bouquets.

We were so proud to have our hobby be a part of our daughter's very special day. Not only did the bride and attendants carry African violets, but we also used eleven 'Streptocarpus' varieties as centerpieces for each table at the reception. Not one plant met its demise or was thrown away. In today's 'green' thinking, it was a great way to reduce, re-use, and recycle. Not only are the bride and groom happily married, but all of the wedding flowers are happily growing back on our shelves.

Interim Editor's Note: For how-to instructions, see "Potted African Violets as a Wedding Bouquet" on page 54.



Publications Awards

Sue Ramser - First Vice President

Each year the Publication Committee oversees the Publications Awards which are presented at the Installation Banquet at the Convention. This year's awards are presented to the following:

President's Citation Certificates

No more than ten (10) President's Citation Certificates may be given for outstanding articles in the *AVM*, January through November issues. The Publication Chair issues ballots to the Publication Committee, the Executive Committee, Directors and Chairs of Standing Committees to determine the recipients of the award.

The 2017 5th Best African Violet Magazine Article award goes to Barbara Werness for her article "When Will I Learn? Maybe this time?" which appeared in the January/February 2017 issue.

The 2017 4th Best African Violet Magazine Article award goes to Angela Newell for her article "A Summer Road Trip To My First AVSA Convention" which appeared in the November/December 2017 issue.

The 2017 3rd Best African Violet Magazine Article award goes to Sandy Skalski for her article "Quarantine! Why and How You Should Isolate New Plants and Leaves" which appeared in the March/April 2017 issue.

The 2017 2nd Best African Violet Magazine Article award goes to Sandy Skalski for her article "Going for the Blue - Why You Should Consider Growing to Show" which appeared in the January/February 2017 issue.

The 2017 Best African Violet Magazine Article award goes to Karin Peters for her article "The Future of African Violets: How to Cultivate the Interest of Younger Growers" which appeared in the September/October 2017 issue.

Silver Pen Award

This award may be given to anyone who has received five or more President's Citation Certificates for materials published in the *AVM*. The recipients of this award will be presented with a written certificate as well as a silver pen.

This year's Silver Pen Award goes to Sandy Skalski for the following articles:

- 2010 "Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus: The Fatal Disease You May Not Have Heard About" May/June, page 50 - **Won a President's Certificate for 2010 *AVM* articles**
- 2012 "Taming Trailers, Part 1: The Basics" November/December, page 14 - **Won a President's Certificate for 2012 *AVM* articles**
- 2015 "Taming Trailers, Part 2: Beyond the Basics" November/December, page 36 - **Won a President's Certificate for 2015 *AVM* articles**
- 2017 "Going for the Blue - Why You Should Consider Growing to Show" January/February, page 46 - **voted 2nd Best Article of 2017**
- 2017 "How to Eliminate Thrips - Part 1" March/April, page 54
- 2017 "Quarantine! Why and How You Should Isolate New Plants and Leaves" March/April, page 43 - **voted 3rd Best Article of 2017**
- 2017 "How to Eliminate Thrips: Part 2 - The New Weapons" May/June, page 10

Congratulations to all the recipients of the Publications Awards. Please continue to write articles and encourage your club members and friends to write articles for the *African Violet Magazine*. You might be the recipient of one of the awards in the future.





Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

“Hoop”

Best Design in Show / Best Interpretive Plant Arrangement

Exhibited by: B. J. Ohme



Put some
Violet Fun
in 2019!!

Plan now to attend the
73rd Consecutive

AVSA Convention & Show

hosted by

Lonestar African Violet Council

May 26 – June 2, 2019

at the beautifully transformed

Houston Marriott Westchase

- The African Violet Society of America 2019 National Show
- Commercial Vendor Salesroom, with vendors from across the nation
- Presentations, Tours, Food and Fun for All!

Come & Have Some *Violet Fun* in the Texas Sun!!

———— **By Plane, by Train or Automobile!** ————

Two Major Airports and Amtrak

2019 Houston Convention Committee

Anne Nicholas - AVSA local Convention Chair

Penny Smith-Kerker - AVSA local Convention Co-Chair

Glenda Williams - Show Chair

Robbie McMeel - Show Co-Chair

Coming Events

September 7-8 - Ohio

The Ohio State African Violet Society
Annual Judged Show and Sale
Kingwood Center Gardens
50 Trimble Rd., Mansfield, OH 44906
Friday, September 7
Sales Room 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
The Show is open for viewing
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Saturday, September 8
Sale & Show 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Free to public
(Kingwood Center Parking is \$5/car)
Mel Grice: melsgrice@earthlink.net or
(937) 654-7014
www.osavs.org

September 15-16 - California

Delta Gesneriad and African Violet Society
Show and Sale
Gesneriads and African Violets
Around the World
Sacramento Garden and Arts Center
3330 McKinley Blvd
Sacramento, CA 95816
Saturday, September 15: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Sunday, September 16: 11:00 am to 3:00 pm
Open to the Public - Free Admission

September 28-29 - Iowa

Cedar Valley African Valley Club
African Violet Display & Sale
Crossroads Mall
2060 Crossroads Blvd.
Waterloo, Iowa 50702
Friday Sept 28: 10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Saturday Sept 29: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Carol Magoon: cmagoon@heartofiowa.net
(641) 751-7751

October 6 - Michigan

Michigan State African Violet Society
Display & Sale
African Violets, Streps and other Gesneriads
Saturday, October 6: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Matthaei Botanical Gardens - Room #125
1800 Dixboro Rd

Ann Arbor, MI 48105
LynnAllen0413@comcast.net

October 6 - Washington

Saintpaulia Society of Tacoma
63rd Judged Show and Sale
10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Watson's Nursery
6211 Pioneer Way East
Puyallup, Washington
Cathleen Graves (253) 535 5973
rhythmslave@harbornet.com

October 13 - Pennsylvania

African Violet Society of Philadelphia
Annual Judged Show/Plant Sale
Cathedral Village Retirement Community
600 E Cathedral Road, Phila., PA 19128
Saturday, October 13: 11:00 am-4:00 pm
Admission free. More information
www.phillyviolets.org or call (610) 272-6961

October 27 - Texas

First Austin African Violet Society
Fall Plant Sale
Austin Area Garden Center
Zilker Botanical Garden
2220 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX 78746
Saturday, October 27: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Entry fee to Zilker Botanical Garden is \$1-children
3-12/seniors 62+, \$2-adults 13-61, and
\$3-non-residents
Susan Kautz (512) 365-1818
email: gizzmo@austin.rr.com
www.faavs.org

November 3-4 - Wisconsin

Wisconsin Council of AVC's
Annual Judged Show & Sale
St. Jude the Apostle Church Hall
531 Knapp St., Oshkosh, WI
Saturday, Nov 3: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sunday, Nov 4: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Kevin Degner (920) 426-3764
kevin_degner@sbcglobal.net

Write for the Article Contest

Josh McKinney
Madison, AL

Pat Hancock's article contest for the African Violet Magazine has been renewed for a third year! There have been numerous stimulating articles written over the course of the past contests. But where should you start? First, write what you know. If you've tested multiple soil mixes and want to discuss your experience with them, write about them. If you only grow minis and semi-minis, variegated standards, or trailers, tell about what you grow! Are you proficient in propagation or rotating fertilizers? Share your findings. Moreover, if like me, you have had many kind mentors in the hobby, write about how you got your start growing African Violets. Additionally, if you love growing for show, write about how you prepare.

Furthermore, I can type much faster than I can write. However, if you prefer to jot down brainstorming ideas or an outline on paper first, then you should do it. When using a computer, though, a good way to record your words on the screen is to remove as many distractions as possible. Turn the TV down, set your phone to silent, close out any web sites or apps on your device, and open a word processing program. It doesn't have to be expensive or fancy. On Windows, even the Notepad or Wordpad will work fine and most PCs come with them pre-installed. Just always remember to **save your work!** On a Mac, the built-in TextEdit is quite helpful. In addition, I have written the past several drafts for my articles on an AlphaSmart Neo 2. This standalone word processor

or smart keyboard doesn't have any fancy graphics, sounds, or the Internet to distract, not even Solitaire! It lasts hundreds of hours on just AA batteries, is very tough, comfortable to type on, compatible with Mac or PC without needing special software, and relatively inexpensive. Consider buying an AlphaSmart Neo if you think it will help you better focus your writing. Once drafting is finished, you can upload the article to your computer. Save your files there and you're ready to edit.

The next important attribute in writing great articles is to not attempt to edit every mistake as you type, as it can hold you back. Leave the mistakes as they are in drafting mode and work on correcting them later. This is something of which I have to be watchful: once I start reading and thinking about what I write, I want to start fixing my mistakes. Don't switch to editing mode yet! Just keep typing as your thoughts are composed.

A third thing that can help is to not worry if your content is "good enough." Write on a topic on which you are passionate. Don't forget to run a spell check and read through your work again some time later after writing it. Check for subject-verb agreement, grammatical errors, and proper syntax. Requesting a relative or friend to check your work for mistakes is also very helpful. In conclusion, please consider submitting an article to the *AVM* so other members can learn about your growing experiences. It can be a lot of fun and you might discover something exciting!



Judges Breakfast Notes

2018 – Buffalo, New York

By Paul Kroll

The notes from the Judges Breakfast meeting of 2017 proved to be quite popular and received positive comments. Here are the notes from the 2018 convention. The purpose of publishing these notes in the magazine is to bring these issues to the attention of AVSA members and judges who were not in attendance at the convention or breakfast meeting.

A question was read asking for a change in the current rules for qualifying for Master Judge status. The author of the question asked for the number of years required to be lowered. The answer was that this would be unfair to those who did wait the full term as set forth years ago.

Another question asked about dish gardens with “paths” that appear to divide the container into separate sections. That type of thing is up to the designer. The judging can reflect the thinking of the judges in their comments. It seems that too many dish gardens are constructed with flat surfaces. It was mentioned that “Landscape Plan” is worth 40 points and there should be hills, valleys, etc. to make the plan more attractive and gain those points.

Our AVSA Handbook has incorporated the Gesneriad Society’s rules, regulations, and point score charts. The old terminology of “grown for foliage” has been replaced (long ago) by the term Gesneriads Grown for Ornamental Factors Other Than Bloom. Those factors are clearly stated in the Handbook and should be reviewed and noted. A great many plants that are just green foliage and not in bloom are entered into AVSA shows. They should be left at home and entered when they are in bloom.

A scenario was read regarding a show, which, in the judges’ opinion, did not have a plant worthy of best in show. One judge on the panel did not want to choose BIS because that judge felt nothing was worthy. The other two judges did want to award the BIS, and there were blue ribbon

plants in the show. The two judges made the decision since they agreed. This could be done, or a third judge could be added to make the decision of BIS. If there are blue ribbons awarded, there must be worthy plants. Choose the highest scoring plant as the best in show.

Should exhibitors be allowed to place their own plants in the showroom? It is best to have the placement team do this, but perhaps it could be arranged to allow the exhibitors to do a last minute check of their plant(s) to be certain that the best side is forward, etc. This is something that would have to be decided by individual clubs.

In the class for new introductions, the plant should be entered with a number rather than a name.. Having a plant’s name on the tag can be a distraction of sorts, especially with an alpha name like Rob’s or Buckeye, for example. It is best to have the new introduction judged without knowledge of its origin or hybridizer. The name can be written on the tag after judging.

May underwater arrangements have the design suspended from the back of the container? Yes, of course! The attachment of any design, niche, free-standing or underwater, has to be anchored somewhere: back, side, bottom or suspended. It does not matter where that anchor is, depending upon the schedule.

[Perhaps this is a good place to mention that the committee who hosted this convention wanted to be as open and free to interpretation and creativity as possible, and the designs were allowed to be any type of design: whatever the designer wanted to do. Of course this needs to be written in the schedule for approval.]

The definition of spent bloom leaves some room for interpretation. Judges should know the varieties and judge accordingly, using their best judgement. Some varieties’ blooms fade quickly; others’ remain strong and fresh looking for quite some time. The classification team can be very helpful in aid-

ing the exhibitor to remove blooms that look like they will be "gone by" at judging time.

A suggestion was made to do away with the rule regarding the removal of a plant from its pot for interpretive plant arrangements. That will not be approved. Plants used in these arrangements must be removed from their pot and the root ball wrapped in some type of material to prevent leakage, etc.

The terminology used to label the unusual, decorative or novel container class was discussed. The choice of term is up to the individual club and the schedule writer. It was stressed that tasteful choices be made; something appropriate for your home decoration. Remember that special consideration may be given to a container that is connected in some way to the show theme. Many of these classes have containers that are out of proportion to the plant and/or detracting from the overall presentation. Exhibitors should be careful of their choices in this regard.

When writing comments on tags, it was stressed that a positive comment should precede negative comments. Remember to be tactful and kind, according to the qualifications of a judge in the Handbook. Perhaps stating a negative comment as a question may help: "Was this plant turned as often as it could have been?" We want to encourage exhibitors rather than discourage them, but we need to help them learn as well.

The Educational Table should be entered into the computer program by the exhibitor's name, just as with a horticulture or design entry. The tag will be printed accordingly.

The question was raised about judging unusual foliage. Plants with unusual foliage should be judged the same as we judge all other plants. Once again, judges should know their varieties and judge accordingly.

The color of blooms on AVs comes first in consideration for which class to enter. Chimera foliage (there are several varieties out there now with foliage that qualifies as such) should be entered into the classes for variegated foliage. Do not confuse chimera blossoms with chimera type foliage.

Many shows now have large entries of "other gesneriads". It was decided at the Shows and Judges Committee meeting in Buffalo that the show must have at least 51% African violets to be eligible to be judged for the SSA award. The ribbons won at a show where the SSA is not calculated are eligible for the exhibitors. It should be noted that if the SSA award is not judged and the paperwork not submitted, the judges who judged that show cannot get credit for having done so.

When listing active members for the SSA award form, perhaps those who are not active can be termed "honorary members". This may require a change in the by-laws of the club.

Project plants do count toward the totals for the SSA award computation. Exhibitors should be encouraged to bring the project plant back, regardless of its condition or whether or not it is blooming, since the object of this class is to educate how different growth habits result from differing conditions of the same plant. [Some clubs have begun to have the judges choose the best project plant, but not judge each entry in that class.]

It would be extremely helpful to the judging teams to have an educational card placed next to the entry tag of the plants in the sport class. This card should state the original description of the variety.

Convention shows must choose a best in show award. Affiliate shows need not do so. The choices should be stated clearly in the schedule for the show.





Streptocarpus 'Heartland's White Gold'

Best Streptocarpus

Exhibited by: Adrienne Rieck

Hybridized by: D. Martens

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Pride of Columbus

Exhibited by: Donna Brining

Hybridized by: H. Pittman

Semiminiature

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Rob's Love Bite

Best Miniature African Violet / Best Variegated Miniature African Violet

Exhibited by: Sandra Skalski

Hybridized by: R. Robinson

Miniature

"And the winners are ..."

434 Plumwood Way • Fairview, TX 75069

By Mary Corondan

Email: mcorondan@yahoo.com

AVS OF GREATER TULSA, OK –

Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Nostalgia, Paula's PB and J, Lacy Lass; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jolly Frills, Rob's Antique Rose, Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Standard: Paula's PB and J; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, **Carol Rice**. Best Trailer: Aly's Rosy Baby; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **BJ Ohme**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Treva McDaniel'; Best Species: *S. 5b* clone *confusa*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Patty Daniel**.

DALLAS METRO AVS, TX – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Candy Pink, Cajun's Mystical Star, Picasso; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jersey Sugar Plums, Precious Pink, Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best Standard: Picasso; Best Miniature: Cajun's Lil Forever Blue, **Ken Muzalewski**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Cajun's Code Blue, Optimara Ontario II, Buckeye Nostalgia; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Galiwinku, Rob's Willawong, Rob's Boolaroo, **Ben Haning**. Best Trailer: Rob's Gundaroo; Best Species: *S. 5b* clone *confusa* Mather E, **Margery Anderson-Clive**. Best Gesneriad: *Pearcea hypocrytiflora*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mary Corondan**. Best Design, **Annie Hibbs**. Design Sweepstakes, **Nadine Tichy**.

HEART OF JACKSONVILLE AVS, FL – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Deep Sky, Optimara Hawaii II, Tiger; Best Standard: Optimara Hawaii II, **Nancy Sacco**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: The Alps, Rhapsodie Irene, Optimara myDream; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jolly Dear, Lucky Ladybug, Rob's Combustible Pigeon; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Combustible Pigeon; Best Trailer: Harmony's Gundartoo; Best Gesneriad: *Primulina linearicalyx*; Best Species: *S. ionanthus*



ssp. *ionanthus* v. *ionantha*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bobbi Johannsen**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cajun's Lil Tizzy, Jolly Magic, Precious Pink; Best Design, **Cathy Carter**. Best in Show/Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Design Sweepstakes, **Linda McQueen**.

OMAHA AV AND GESNERIAD SOCIETY, NE – Winners:

Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Red, Persian Prince, Jolly Victory; Best in Show/Best Miniature: Precious Red; Best Semiminiature: Emerald Pink; Best Trailer: Rob's Humpty Doo; Best Species: *S. 5b* clone *confusa*; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Randy Deutsch**. Best Standard: Cajun's Storm Watch, **Anthony Freedland**.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN AV COUNCIL, CO – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Celebration, Cajun's Blue Bayou, EK-Goluboglazaia Rossiia; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Lullabye'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Trudy Brekel**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Raspberry Glitz, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Golden Dawn, **Susan Shaw**. Best Standard: Wrangler's Dixie Celebration, **Kathrey Howard Maynard**. Best Semiminiature: Jolly Fire, **Al Boswell**. Best Miniature: Jersey Jackpot; Best Trailer: Rob's Gundaroo, **Melissa Shopnitz**. Best Species: *S. 5h* clone *rupicolus*; Best Design, **B. J. Ohme**. Design Sweepstakes, **Deb Carnevale**.

SPRING BRANCH AVC, TX – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Cajun's Coujon, Buckeye Nostalgia, Cajun's Flamboyant Mistress; Best in Show/Best Standard: Cajun's Coujon; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Inner Orbit; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Wayne Geeslin**. Best Trailer: Siawasee Trail, **Donna McGraw**. Best Gesneriad: *Primulina* 'Patina', **Norma Flynn**. Best Design, **Elmer Godney**. Design Sweepstakes, **Jane Rexilius**.

SOUTH COAST AVS, CA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Blue Dragon, Funam-

bule, Frozen in Time; Best in Show/Best Standard: Frozen in Time; Best Semiminiature: Jolly Rain; Best Trailer: Rob's Woolloomooloo; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mary Smith**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Silver Skies', **Maureen Pratt**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Joyce Mochizuki**.

SUNDOWNERS' AVS, LA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Cajun's Mama Ruby, Cajun's Mystical Star, Cajun's Blueberry Hill; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cajun's Lil Sprinkles, Cajun's Le Bon Ton Roulé, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best in Show/Best Standard: Cajun's Mama Ruby; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Belinda Thibodeaux**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tommie Lou, EK-Vishnevaia Metel', Cajun's Fair Maiden, **George Ramirez**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Red, Dolores' Sugar Candy, Rob's Jitterbug; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Outer Orbit; Best Miniature: Precious Red, **Laura Moser**. Best Species Collection: *S. 5b* clone *confusa* Mather E, *S. 5b* clone *grotei* Silvert, *S. 5a* clone *grandifolius* No. 299; Best Trailer: Rob's Kalangadoo; Best Species: *S. 5b* clone *confusa* Mather E,

Wilhemina Allen. Best Gesneriad: *Primulina* 'Patina', **Robbie McMeel**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Becky McMeel**.

TAMPA AVS, FL – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wrangler's Dixie Celebration, Silverglade Dolls, Cajun's Freckleface Kid; Best in Show/Best Standard: Wrangler's Dixie Celebration, **Glenn Shelton**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lucien Croteau, Ness' Candy Pink, Wrangler's Dixie Celebration; Best Semiminiature: Jolly Dear, **Angela Newell**. Best Miniature: Jolly Fun, **Jim Matula**. Best Trailer: Rob's Humpty Doo, **Jerry Kast**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Drako', **Terry Jordan**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Mary Lou Harden**. Horticulture Sweepstakes (tie): **Glenn Shelton and Terry Jordan**.

THOUSAND OAKS AVS, CA – Winners: Best in Show/Best Miniature: Corkie; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Shadow Magic; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gay Wilson**. Best Standard: Optimara Degas II, **Lyndell Fong**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Silver Skies', **Maureen Pratt**. Best Design, **Judy Anderson**. Design Sweepstakes, **Louise Ozaki**.

Primulina 'Loki' (Curly)

Best Peter Shalit Hybrid

Exhibited by: Linda Hall

Hybridized by: Shalit Hybrid



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Rob's Funny Bunny

2nd Best New Cultivar - Commercial

Exhibited by: Violet Barn

Hybridized by: R. Robinson

Semiminiature

The Violet Network

By Jennie Lawrence

Email: missjennae@yahoo.com

When looking for advice about the weather, gardening, the phases of the moon, or other “country” wisdom, the *Old Farmer's Almanac* is the place to go. According to *Writer's Market 2017* the magazine form has been in publication since 1792, and is the oldest continuously published periodical in North America. With the advent of the internet, it is easy to access, and the information we are looking for is right at our finger tips. I was surprised to find the site even has some basic information about African violets.

Basic is the key word, but the site is a good jumping off point. The page starts with a general description of African Violet plants, and features a picture of the typical, purple-flowered plant.

The “Care” section provides minimal information. I felt the section on fertilizing your African violet might be confusing to someone with little knowledge. However, it does have a link to the AVSA site, so it is easy for people to get great advice.

There are numerous other links on various aspects of care. The pictures provided for powdery mildew are on outside, garden type plants. While the photo on the “How to Make Your Own Potting Soil” link appeared to be a good mix for African violets, the actual recipe was again oriented to outdoor gardening. The measurement directions are given in buckets and cups, and include not only peat moss, vermiculite or perlite, but sand, compost, fertilizer and lime. In fact, many of the links are oriented more to outside gardening. This was not surprising given the website.

A cute section is titled, “Wit and Wisdom.” I learned a few things reading through it. Violets are one of the February birth flowers. They symbolize loyalty, devotion, and faithfulness. One



can go on to explore other birth flowers through another link.

The link, “Make sure your violets bloom” had some useful information, although the title refers to African violets as fusspots and the article states they are fussy about growing conditions. Later the article says African violets are easy to grow if cared for on their own terms.

Each page or link is written by different people. When I researched the requirements for writing for the *Old Farmer's Almanac*, I found 95% of the articles are written by freelance writers, however those writers must send in queries with clippings of their published work. Many of the links go to people's blogs or web pages.

The Reader's Comments section provided a place for readers to ask questions about African violet care and husbandry. Replies were always given, and happily, some of those replies provided a link back to the AVSA site.

The photos of plants were beautiful. They featured a variety of bloom types and colors. These would definitely pique the interest of someone new to the hobby.

The sidebar advertisements were fun and had little to do with African violets. My favorites were the sun catcher discs, featuring hummingbirds or sunflowers.

The average person purchasing an African violet from the local home center will probably be able to keep their plant alive and even blooming with the advice on this website. If they follow the AVSA link, they may develop a passion for these plants, with the valuable information that is on that site.

To visit this website go to:
<https://www.almanac.com/plant/african-violets>



AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS

DECEMBER 31

ASSETS:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 44,268.24	\$ 58,445.78
Investments	106,087.78	107,363.40
Accounts Receivable	7,150.45	780.50
Inventories	10,497.89	8,412.57
Prepaid Expenses		2,500.00
Restricted Assets:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	19,982.86	15,847.29
Investments	162,260.20	148,347.49
Capital Assets:		
Land	10,000.00	10,000.00
Other Capital Assets, Net of Depreciation	29,007.63	32,209.82
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>389,255.05</u>	<u>383,906.85</u>

LIABILITIES:

Accounts Payable	4,691.00	
Accrued Payroll Taxes Payable	1,716.72	2,037.36
Sales Taxes Payable	118.68	41.13
Deferred Revenue	38,767.22	39,299.90
Deferred Life Membership Revenue	82,165.82	86,487.82
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>127,459.44</u>	<u>127,866.21</u>

NET ASSETS:

Net Investment in Capital Assets	39,007.63	42,209.82
Board Designated - Convention	7,444.58	8,199.58
Board Designated - Boyce Edens	13,383.05	10,769.71
Board Designated - Hudson	2,427.10	2,876.74
Board Designated - Tinari	3,462.37	3,010.36
Board Designated - Building Fund	8,778.00	8,778.00
Permanently Restricted	149,748.96	139,353.39
Unrestricted	37,543.92	40,843.04
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>\$261,795.61</u>	<u>\$256,040.64</u>





Photo Credit: Mel Grice

Moonlight Waves

Ohio State AVS 2017

Shown by: Debbie McInnis

Hybridized by: H. Pittman

Semiminiature



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Morgan's Sophronia

Best Semiminiature African Violet, Canadian Origination

Exhibited by: Beverley Williams

Hybridized by: C. Eros

Semiminiature

AVSA and Revenue

By Richard Nicholas - AVSA President

Most everyone knows that AVSA has expenses. We pay to publish the African Violet Magazine and other publications. We pay employees. We pay upkeep and expenses for the AVSA Office building in Beaumont, and more. But, where does the money come from?

As some members have heard me say, AVSA is a non-profit organization, but that does not mean that AVSA is a non-revenue organization. Non-profit means we do not sell products or services for a profit and that no individuals, officers, investors, etc. earn anything for our services. All revenues go back to our operating expenses for our members. Simply put, we must earn revenue to meet those expenses.

Obviously membership dues generate revenue, but that is not enough. When our national shows are successful, we earn some revenue. We also generate some revenue from product

sales (think First Class, DVDs, handbooks, etc.). Ads in the AVM generate important income. Donations are another source of funds. The Tinari Endowment Fund, created several years ago, has grown enough to begin adding interest earnings to each year's AVSA budget. Recently AVSA has received a grant from the Allegretti Foundation to assist with expenses (and we are very grateful!) As these last items suggest, seeking additional funds will be important in the future - to meet rising costs and to avoid dues increases.

The AVSA Executive Committee is considering establishing a committee for fund raising. We are, therefore, looking for a few of our members with fundraising experience or who are willing to serve this way. If you are interested or have some thoughts, please contact me or contact Sue Ramser. AVSA needs you.



BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND

Karen Broadway - Chairman • 10028 N. 58th Lane • Glendale, AZ 85302-1334

Donations received from April 1, 2018 - May 31, 2018 • **Total \$160.00**



Multicolor - \$50-\$99

Pass Patchers Quilt Guild, Beaumont, CA

In Memory of Olive Pratt



Two-Tone - \$25-\$49

First Austin AVS, Taylor TX

In Lieu of Jo Schrimsher's Judge's Fee

Desert Sun AV & Gesneriad Society, Phoenix, AZ

Alice A. Inlow, Ballwin, MO



Thumbprint - Under \$25

Robert McMeel, Houma, LA

Catherine O'Neil, Lynbrook, NY

Lynn Wallach, Westport, CT

New Mexico Student Growers Take Violets Seriously

By Joyce Stork

Many violet growers must learn by their mistakes. Imagine the delight of taking a high school botany class with a well-known violet hybridizer and grower as your teacher! That's what is happening in Los Lunas, New Mexico, at the School of Dreams Academy under the tutelage of Kathy Hajner (pronounced Hay-ner), a science teacher with 22 years of experience.



Kathy started growing violets early in her life and remembers making her first cross when she was in 7th grade. Other things got in the way, but she got back to violets about 10 years ago. Kathy has earned an excellent reputation as an African violet breeder, grower, and owner of Hajner's Hybrids in her spare time when she isn't teaching school.



*'K's Slingshot', Hybridized and Shown by Kathy Hajner, 2016 AVSA Convention.
Photo credit: Lona Pidanick.*

The violet class developed quite naturally as a combination of Kathy's extra violets (hybridizing rejects) and the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) focus of the school. The botany/horticulture course which Kathy teaches is project-based, covering topics such as photosynthesis, reproduction, genetics, taxonomy, with a large focus on native New Mexico plants. In the second semester, students work on several experiments/projects of their choice. Growing a violet for show is one of the options. It usually starts in October and ends in April with a show.

"Each student started with 2 violets on their own mat-watered tray. Most of the violets are my hybridized 'rejects' that were actually very nice to use for something like this. (Students could name the seedlings.) In the past, the Albuquerque club has donated violets as well. Things that they learned included the history of the African violet, re-potting (particularly mold potting and what kind of soil to use), propagation from leaves (because some leaves come off during re-potting), how to grow under lights, grooming (which involves a lot!), watering and fertilizing, how violets are scored in a show, and how to disbud before a show. Also, there was the pre-show prep of final grooming and slip-potting... They had already grown plants from seed and learned how to check their plants daily for water, pests, and other problems as soon as they came to class."



This year's violet program included 15 students. It's been growing for each of the five years it's been offered. When asked for comments the students replied, "It's a great experience." "This class has taught me some amazing things." "It's really rad and you should do it. It's stuff you could really use."

As a climax to the project, the students participate in a show which was judged by AVSA Judge Sharon Shannon, president of the *Albuquerque African Violet Club*. This year, due to hot conditions in the classroom, the show was held independently of the AAVC Annual Show, while violets were still at their prime.

Kathy writes, "The show was held in the botany lab 2 weeks before the AAVC show. The plants were judged on April 6th. We set up 3 tables with purple table cloths that the club gave us to use. The students groomed and slip-potted their plants and they were displayed nicely for judging. Each student had at least 1 plant in the show, some had 2. We had a total of 25 plants showing. Sharon came to judge and printed out cards for each plant. She gave important feedback and ribbons for each plant and awarded Best in Show and Second Best in Show Awards. The show was open for all staff, students and parents of the school to see until Wednesday, April 11th. The students were thrilled to see their awards when they came back to school that Monday."



Judge Sharon Shannon used the AVSA standard scale of point to judge the exhibits. She commented afterward, "The winning exhibits were absolutely beautiful, and I would be proud to enter them in my show. Over all, all the violets were beautiful although there were a couple that

obviously suffered more from the conditions than others. The students did a wonderful job with their growing and showing, and I'm really proud of them!"

Kevin Villalovos and Cameron Steward were especially excited. Kevin's violet (he named it 'Fae Crown') won Best in Show, while Cameron's violet ('Todd') won 2nd Best. When asked what the most important thing was they did to achieve their awards, Kevin said "Take your time with it and be careful with the watering." Cameron agreed, "When watering, don't overwater. Check to see if the soil is still moist before watering."



Kevin with his best in show 'Fae Crown'



Cameron with 2nd Best 'Todd'

School will be out soon for these students. What is going to happen now? Kevin is considering opening his own plant shop. One student said, "I am going to take my violet home and show my grandparents. I will also continue to care for it and make sure it stays healthy." Another said, "I plan to grow more next year and participate in the show again."

But, oops, one student confessed, "I honestly did a doesn't get any better than that.



bad job at parenting mine. My violet died." Do you suppose she overwatered it?

Two weeks after the show, the students assisted the Albuquerque club with setting up for their official show. Two students brought their families back to see the show that weekend.

Educational, life-changing, helping others, and fun. School

More Photos of the Student Growers and Their Violets



Bottom Row: Hunter Crain, Briana Griego, Hanna Stockton. Back Row: Sabastian Chavez, Judah Stewart



Fiona Joyce



Jay Relaford



Left to right: Ariana Monge, Danielle Duplessis, Yasmin Valverde, and Cameron Steward



Photo Credit: Neil Lipson

Rob's Oolong

Grown by: Sandy Skalski
Hybridized by: R. Robinson
Semiminiature



JULIE ANNE - (new from Granger) single magenta stars, edged white, flecked blue - quite special. 407



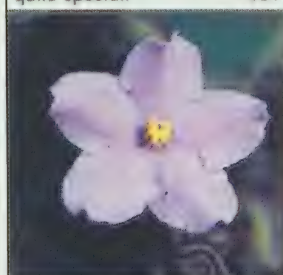
EMILIE SAVAGE - light lilac double quilted foliage. 577



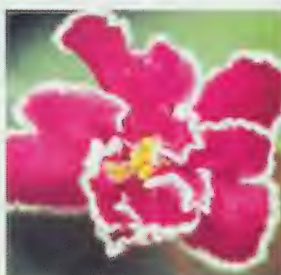
HEIRLOOM - blue double with bright white edges, shiny dark foliage. 505



PURFECT LOVE - (new from Lyon) mauve pink stars, tipped dark mauve VARIEGATED foliage. 409



WONDERLAND - you make it #1 - huge light blue, semi-double, super. 598



STRAWBERRY MOON - Raspberry semi-dbl. stars Geneva edge. 595



SNOW SQUALL - Mounds of white semi-double stars. 321



FIREWALKER - double stars, mauve red. Some red tipping. 486



TIGER LILY - (reintroduced from Eginites) a coral-pink star, spectacular for many years. 401



ATCHAFALAYA BASIN - Semi-double pink with VARIEGATED foliage. Pink overlay. 332



ROYAL LADY - purple semi-dbl. stars, white edged. Foliage has elegant pink edging. 316



SENT FROM HEAVEN - white semi-dbl. flowers, edged pink VARIEGATED foliage. 454



CALICO MISS - Huge lilac stars, bordered lavender beautifully VARIEGATED. 507



CORAL KISS - (reintroduction) huge coral stars-great show plant. 311



MORNING THUNDER - Bouquets of semi-double blue and white flowers. Real nice. 506



SAUCY SUNSET - Bright fuchsia red single star flowers. VARIEGATED foliage. 318



RED PETTICOATS - fuchsia dbl. flowers, ruffled, wavy foliage. 442



VAR. GORGEOUS - Red and white semi-dbl. on VAR. foliage. 550



LUV IT - Fluffy pink semi-double flowers flecked with purple. Ruffled edge. 386



AUTUMN BLUES - Large light blue, semi-dbl. stars, VARIEGATED. 599

The Vintage Violet

The Vintage Violet Beautiful Violets from Yesteryear

By Neil Lipson

When I was asked to serve on AVSA's Violet Preservation Committee, my first thought was "Good Lord, my collection is 60% vintage! This is right down my alley." These are the plants that I give away most as I'd hate it if they were to disappear like Sugar 'n' Spice almost did. I started growing in 1983, and back then, what are now "vintage" violets were what was new for us then. Here are some of the stories and catalog descriptions of those varieties that are now vintage kings.

First, since some of you may not know anything about the AVSA Violet Preservation Committee or even that it exists, here is our mission statement:

The mission of the AVSA Violet Preservation Committee is to preserve and restore African violets cultivars 10 years or older, including species, to ensure they are not lost so as to preserve our African violet heritage. A vintage violet is defined as a violet that is at least 25 years old. We hope to develop and maintain a list of violets and the growers of those varieties so as to provide a means for the grower to share or exchange with others interested in preserving our heritage. Most exchanges are for leaves, and the AVSA member making the request should expect to pay for postage.

I spoke to Candace Baldwin about the vintage violets, and after naming a few, she wrote:

"Oh how I wish I had that one. I remember it so clearly. It had the prettiest pink blossoms that seemed to shimmer against the background of the dark green leaves. It sat on my grandmother's make-shift plant stand – an old wooden



bookshelf that she had taken the back off of to let the light through. The stand was filled from top to bottom with violets. I don't remember if she kept track of the plant names in her violet collection. I know that if I still had that plant and knew its name, it would now officially be a vintage violet. Vintage violets are named plants that are 25 years or older...and we're losing more and more of them.

Our vintage violets are slipping away from us. With so many new varieties being developed that have bigger blossoms or fancier leaves, less people are growing the ones that make up our violet history. My hope is that a new appreciation will be found for these treasures. Vintage violets are beautiful in their simplicity and I find are stronger plants and easier to grow. Go see what may be hiding on your own plant stands and window sills. If you are lucky enough to be in possession of a vintage violet, I hope you will considering sharing so others may also experience the joy in growing and continuing our violet heritage."

I bring many of these rare violets to conventions, including MAAVS (Mid-Atlantic), DAVS (Dixie), AVSA Nationals, and the African Violet Council of Florida shows to share, but I don't ship. I never charge for anything. This is a labor of love for me. I also make it a point that these vintage leaves are passed on as a "pay it forward" approach. It took forever to get the word out that my leaves and plants were available to be grown again, but it is slowly progressing, and my vintage varieties are now reaching many parts of the U.S.

I found a catalog of Fischer's Greenhouse, from 1992 and reproduced one page to illustrate some of the vintage violets. Fischer's went out of business some years ago.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Vintage Violets

Yes, there are a few disadvantages of vintage violets, and one that is obvious is that these older varieties were NOT hybridized for symmetry, blossoms, and resistance to disease and fungi as some of the other hybrids. Buckeye or Cajun's violets are much more symmetrical and in many ways are hardier. Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler is a great example of a well-hybridized violet by Pat Hancock. Also, Belinda Thibodeaux has done

some amazing hybridization with her Cajun's series like Cajun's Zydeco.

So my friends, the bottom line is if you have a few vintage varieties, share them on your affiliate's raffle tables and give them to friends to keep them Forever Alive. Stay tuned as the AVSA Vintage Preservation Committee develops its list for you to savor and then contact the person who has it to request a leaf!

I would like to thank Candace Baldwin and Carolee Carter for their help, both technically and proofreading.

Neil Lipson is a full-time computer consultant. He can be reached by emailing him at ndlipson@gmail.com or calling (610) 356-6183 after 1pm Eastern time. He will return your call.

TIP!

DAILY CARE OF PLANTS. Growers of blue-ribbon plants look at their plants every day. Few plants require care every day, but a second for a quick look is sometimes all that separates the green thumb growers from the brown.
AVSA Judges Handbook

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

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Geneva - \$100-\$499

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A Family Portrait

By Paul Kroll

5953 Broadway - #128 • Lancaster, NY 14086

Email: pfkroll@roadrunner.com

Primulina medica

I have been growing primulinas for many years. Nearly all have been successful growers for me. Some are more successful in the class for ornamental factors other than bloom than others. Many primulinas possess plain green foliage with no variegation or patterning. These are, for the most part, the plants that should not be entered in that class, but left at home until they are in bloom and can be entered into the blooming gesneriad class(es).

I have been growing *Primulina medica* for four years. It has plain green leaves which are extremely hairy. The long, pointed leaves are luxurious in appearance and are so turgid that they tear, and or break rather easily. I grew it with an African violet support ring attached to its pot and that helped to keep it protected as I watered it and turned it. This plant grew to 24 inches across. I entered it and won best in class at the recent AVSA convention in Buffalo. It was in bloom for that event.

All primulinas form buds in their leaf axils and...we wait! Peter Shallit calls them "resting buds", as they form and seem to take forever to actually grow and have open blooms. My *Primulina medica* had these resting buds form nearly a year before they actually grew and began to open. The plant



grew "center stage" on a shelf with 2 T8 bulbs overhead. It seemed to thrive there, so I left it alone. When the peduncles grew, I was amazed at the bud count and the number of blooms on each one! They are white, with purple markings and quite nice. The blooms do not last too long, but the corolla turns brown and then falls off.

Nearly all primulinas grow easily from a leaf cutting. *P. medica* is no exception. I cut the leaf into a wedge, using only the base wedge to insert into the rooting medium. The portions cut off may also be inserted and each vein in the leaf section will form a baby plantlet.

Primulina medica forms a perfect rosette, with a whorl of leaves, unlike so many of its cousins that stack their rows of leaves on top of one another.

According to *Gesneriaceae of South China*,

Wei Yi-Gang, editor-in-chief: *Primulina medica* "Grows in rocky crevices on limestone hills. It is a traditional Chinese medicine often used for treating illnesses such as traumatic injuries, rheumatism and bone pain. It is critically endangered because of uncontrolled collection of plant material for traditional Chinese medicine use."

The plant is very beautiful and I thought it should get some publicity in this Family Portrait column.



Third Vice President's Committees

Edited by Sue Ramser - First Vice President

This is the third in our series of articles introducing the committees that report to the three Vice Presidents. Each Vice President is responsible for Standing Committees and Special Committees. Standing Committee chairs have both voice and vote at all AVSA Board of Directors' meetings. Special Committee Chairs that have reports shall be invited to the AVSA Board of Directors with voice and no vote. Standing and Special Committees are appointed by the President with the exception of the Nominating Committee Chair who is elected by the Executive Committee. The Standing Committee and Special Committee chairs serve a two-year term, which coincides with the President's term and may be reappointed by the incoming President. The following are the Standing and Special Committees reporting to the Third Vice President:

Standing Committees

Affiliate

Jeri Anderson, Chair - twajda1@comcast.net

The Affiliate Committee sends information on how to form a new club as requested and sends charters and welcome packets to newly affiliated chapters. The Committee also keeps the Affiliates' information updated on the AVSA website.

Plant Registration & Master Plant List

Joe Bruns - jbruns@quip.net

The Plant Registration and Master Plant List Committee is responsible for receiving applications for registering all African violet cultivars and keeping complete records of all registered varieties. The committee is also responsible for the compilation of the AVSA *African Violet Master List of Species and Cultivars* and its supplements including both registered and non-registered cultivars. The committee is also responsible for requesting names and descriptions of non-registered cultivars from known hybridizers.

Special Committees

Internet/Website

Barbara Burde, Chair - hhkid76-av@yahoo.com

The Internet /Website committee coordinates and implements the functions associated with the maintenance of the AVSA website. The committee establishes a working organization to maintain the website in terms of both content and technological changes. They also monitor Internet copyright/legal issues. The committee designs and develops new applications, program, and databases to accomplish the functional goal of AVSA.

Technology

David Kesler, Chair - ajkesler@mac.com

The Technology Committee advises the Board on the application of computing technologies used by the Society office and applied in the support of the goals of the Society which includes the evaluation, selection, implementation and maintenance of computing hardware, software and internet technologies. The committee develops and maintains a list of computing software that is available to be shared between member clubs for their use in conducting their shows and sales.

Violet Preservation

Tina Moreno, Chair - Gecko2T@gmail.com

The Violet Preservation Committee's purpose is the preservation and restoration of older African violet cultivars, those that are ten years or older and to make them available to the members at large and also to preserve our African violet heritage. The Committee also maintains an up to date file on cultivars available and the names and addresses of the growers and creates and maintains a list or database of the plants wanted by members and advertise for them in the *AVM* or on the AVSA website when appropriate.

We oftentimes do not realize who of our membership has skills and talents that would help further our Society's goals. If you have interest or expertise in any of these areas, please contact the committee chair and volunteer to serve on the committee.



Photo Credit: Neil Lipson

Grape Glory

Grown by: Diane Kaluhiokalani

Hybridized by: P. Sorano/Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Standard

Where are the Cyclamen Mites? Closer than You Think!

By Joyce Stork • Henderson NV

Occasionally a grower asks, "What causes cyclamen mites?" it sounds like mites can appear from nowhere. That's not how it works. Cyclamen mite larvae hatch from eggs laid by cyclamen mites. So, where are these mites? And how do we keep them from injuring our violets?

Before addressing these questions, it would be good to review some mite basics:

- Cyclamen mites (*Phytonemus pallidus* are also known as "strawberry mites") are microscopic pests which measure about 100th of an inch in size. It is unlikely that anyone could see the mites with unaided eyes
- They need humidity and avoid light, preferring to hide in plant folds. In violets they are found in leaf axils feeding on newly-forming buds, and in the most delicate new growth in violet crowns.
- Cyclamen mites infest many plants. The Missouri Botanical Gardens report that cyclamen mites can overwinter outside as far north as Canada in protected areas.
- Cyclamen mites can reproduce quickly. Females are asexually able to produce eggs which will be predominantly female. Under ideal conditions, all six stages of reproduction can be completed in as little as a single week.
- Cyclamen mite larvae feed by inserting a piercing mouthpart into very young tender cell, sucking out the juices. These cells never function again.
- The most likely way a violet grower will discover the presence of cyclamen mites is when the center leaves of the crown become pale yellow, tightly clustered and severely stunted. Alert growers might notice earlier indications such as: 1) brittleness, puckers and deformities on newly emerging leaves, 2) blossom stems that are twisted and perhaps shorter than usual, or 3) flowers that are undersized or refuse to open.

According to Dr. Charles Cole (Professor Emeritus at Texas A & M University, and a frequent speaker at AVSA conventions in the 1990's), it is rare to find a violet collection that is absolutely free of cyclamen mites. You probably have one or two cyclamen mites in your violets right now. So why don't growers have tight stunted centers all the time?

- Dr. Cole reported that cyclamen mite larvae are only able to feed on extremely tender plant cells. The mature cells of healthy violets are much too tough for their mouthparts to pierce. Stiff fully hydrated cells are also less penetrable. That includes new growth – if the newest tenderest foliage is hydrated, the mites are less able to feed. If they can't feed, they perish. Growers using constant watering systems such as specialized pots, wicking, or capillary matting automatically have fewer issues with cyclamen mites. Letting violets dry out is an invitation for cyclamen mite infestation.
- Cyclamen mites prefer temperatures near 60° F and humidity in the range of 80-90%. As a result, outbreaks in greenhouses and collections most often occur during the fall and winter. Growers who maintain both consistent temperature levels of 70-80° F (which are ideal for violets), and a consistent humidity level of 40-60% (again ideal for violet culture) will have fewer outbreaks.

If you are lucky enough to have a mite-free collection, where would the new cyclamen mites come from? They hitchhike from other infested plants on skin, clothing and tools. Good sanitation - washing hands, cleaning tools, and changing clothes before entering the growing area - will help prevent cyclamen mite invasions.

These plants are all known to harbor cyclamen mites and should be avoided:

- **Strawberries**

This delicious popular crop is consistently reported across the country to be one of the most likely hosts of cyclamen (strawberry) mites. The University of California Agricultural and Natural Resources reports that these mites may be spread by "pickers, bees, birds, and equipment." Any excursion to the garden to harvest strawberries is an excellent reason to soap up and change clothes before tending violets.

- **Cyclamen**

As you might expect, cyclamen plants are vulnerable to cyclamen mites. They are suspected as the main culprit in the initial spread of the pests around the United States. Many violet growers avoid this plant entirely and wouldn't consider bringing it indoors.

- **Ivy**

With ample tender foliage, this popular companion plant is also a common host for cyclamen mites. Ivy plants should not be grown near violets and are better avoided.

- **Begonia, dahlia, delphinium, chrysanthemum, fuchsia, geranium, gloxinia, larkspur, New Guinea impatiens, petunia, snapdragon, verbena, vinca, and viola**

All are known to be vulnerable to cyclamen mite infestation, especially in the cooler months.

Avoid bringing any of these indoors as potted plants. Take extra care to wash and change clothes between your garden and your African violets.

Preventing cyclamen mites is a far better option than having to use pesticides after mites have gone out of control. Simply providing excellent cultural conditions for African violets is a very effective deterrent. Don't forget to keep a watchful eye and to discard suspicious violets quickly (and wash your hands!) especially if there has been a lapse in consistent watering.

Happy Growing!

Sources:

"Insect and Mite Pests of the African Violet", by Dr. Charles Cole, Texas A & M University, 1994

"Cyclamen and Broad Mites", Missouri Botanical Gardens, published online at <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org>

"Cyclamen Mites and Broad Mites on Greenhouse Crops", by Leanne Pundt, Extension Educator, University of Connecticut, 2001

UC IPM Pest Management Guidelines: Strawberry
UC ANR Publication 3468

Articles and Columnists Deadlines

January Issue - October 1

March Issue - December 1

May Issue - February 1

July Issue - April 1

September Issue - June 1

November Issue - August 1



Photo Credit: Neil Lipson

Precious Red

Grown by: Paula Bal

Sansoucy' Olympe

Best Vintage Violet,
Canadian Origination

Exhibited by: Annie Simard

Hybridized by: P. Sansoucy
Large Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Episcia 'Kee Wee'

Best Other
Gesneriad - Commercial
Exhibited by: Steve Turner

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Jolly Glow

Best New Cultivar - Commercial

Exhibited by: B. J. Ohme

Hybridized by: H. Pittman

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In memory of Kent Stork
 Bill Paauwe
In memory of John Cook
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In memory of Richard Carr



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 Arlene Garvens
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 Metropolitan St. Louis African Violet Council
In lieu of judges fee for Randy Deutsch
 Kathryn Howard
In memory of Janice Carr



This Texas Lass Retired and Returned to Violets

By Joyce Stork



A few years back, when Alva Kesler was in her 20's, she grew violets. Back then, she was a part of a violet club in Bryan/College Station, Texas. A move to Tyler, Texas, three children, and a full-time job crowded out the violets in her life. But she never lost interest.

"Three years ago, after retiring I asked David if he would drive me to Dallas so I could be part of a club once again. It's 100 miles away but I needed a hobby. I knew I wanted to do it right. What I thought was him-dropping-me-off became him-joining-the-club-with-me, I was delighted! So, we joined First African Violet Society of Dallas. In the three years of going to Dallas once a month they have been very supportive in helping us start a club in Tyler which is African Violet Society of East Texas. This club is a little over a year old and doing well. We still keep the road hot going to First Dallas and Judges Council in Dallas."

In those two early years of growing, Alva had a great mentor in Linda Ray, who was a talented grower and hybridizer of miniature and semi-miniature African violets and trailers at that



time. In the last three years, she has been helped by Jan and Ron Davidson who checked up on her frequently. "I always had questions because things had changed so much since the 1970's." But that wasn't the only help she got. "I have to say that Mary Corondan, Anne & Richard Nicholas, and Ken Muzalewski and their willingness has also been instrumental in our education too! I met Hortense Pittman (hybridizer of the Jolly and the Precious series) at a show and sale in Dallas a couple years ago. She took my hands in her hands and began to talk African Violets to me as we stood in the greenhouse where the show was located. She touched my heart forever."

David and Alva grow a wide variety of African violets, including the Jolly miniature and semi-miniature hybrids, as well as the Buckeye and Cajun hybrids, and "anything else that catches my eye." The Jolly's are her favorite.

Their growing space was once a back porch. "Our home, being 128 years old, has zero installation in the walls so



controlling the temperature is hard. We have some air conditioning, a ceiling fan, and other fans to circulate the air. Here in Texas powdery mildew is a problem. There are LED and traditional florescent lighting. For blooming David changes part to 2700K bulbs. We used wick watering only to begin with, but now we do mat watering. With some non-cooperating plants, we put wicks in the plants on top of mats."

It turns out that David, "her beloved", has some serious computer skills which got him promoted to a job as the AVSA

Technology Chairman. Alva is now the first president of the African Violet Society of East Texas, a student judge, and a very serious grower. Violets fill their family life these days.

She offers this useful tip to other growers,

"...when you feel like giving up, talk to someone in a club that knows how to grow those big beautiful AVs and listen and learn. Never give up because one day you too can have those big beautiful African Violets!"

Jersey Sugar Plums

Ohio State AVS 2017

Shown by: Debbie McInnis

Hybridized by: R. Kurzynski
Semiminiature



Photo Credit: Mel Grice

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April 1, 2018 – May 31, 2018



Thumbprint - Under \$25

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Suzanne Myers
Susan E. Joy
Rosemary Nesta
Leslie Breen
Bettye Williams
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In memory of Mary Page Palmer

Pat Mattson

Donna Mosher

Oshkosh Violet Society / WI

Celia Howe



Multicolor - \$50-\$99

Randy McMahill
Thomas E. Lovelace
First Nighter AVS of Dallas
Vickie Avery



Geneva - \$100-\$499

Alice Inlow

Reviving Classic Violets

Josh McKinney
Madison, AL

Modern African violet hybrids have much to offer: beautiful bicolors or even tricolors, thumb-print flowers, raspberry edges, fantastic fantasies, compact or large growth habits, often flat, symmetrical foliage, and especially lovely variegation. Conversely, classic or vintage violets are often plainer and their foliage is sometimes a little more unruly. Any hybrid 25 years or older is considered a vintage violet, and I will use the term "classic" interchangeably. Some might ask, why bother growing yesteryears' hybrids? The first reason is that they have stood the test of time. Many have faded into violet history, but the remaining ones have a unique charm and often, toughness. For example, the singles' flowers develop more quickly than double or triple flowers. Another reason is that they are often easier to propagate. An unfortunate side effect of some of the more complicated modern hybrids is getting them to reproduce true can be challenging. I had two modern fantasies revert this year, one Russian, and the other a US hybrid. Both bloomed solid purple! A third reason to grow the classic violets is that you will be experiencing firsthand a living part of African Violet history. What your parents,

grandparents, or perhaps great-grandparents grew many decades ago can still grow beautifully on your plant stands today.

The best known of the classics, the original ten Armacost & Royston hybrids are all droppers, but the surviving ones are quite tough. Blue Boy (#41), Admiral, Amethyst (#12), Commodore, Mermaid, Neptune, Norseman, Number 32, Viking, and Sailor Boy. They were the bridge between the species and the modern hybrids. I remember the first time I saw Blue Boy and Norseman in an



African violet book and wanted to grow them. Moreover, Admiral is blooming as I write this article with its showy violet flowers and dark green leaves. I am also growing Berry Splash (#4107), an Ethel Champion hybrid, and even though its crown variegation is a challenge, it is a beautiful plant. Furthermore, the best place to look for the classics is your local violet club, AVSA commercial members, and online. What's more, I recently purchased Pink Energy (#3323), a Nadeau hybrid at a violet

show and am impressed by its sturdiness and big leaves. I eagerly await its first blooms, which are lovely semidouble pink flowers.

Anyone remember Trail Along, with its double pink flowers and mini trailing foliage? I also grew Ruffles 'N' Lace (#6366) years ago. The pink flowers were fringed heavily with green, but the heavily ruffled leaves I considered unmanageable. Additionally, girl-leaved varieties were more prevalent in the past and some are still worth growing today. Take Blue Girl, for example, the first girl-leaved violet, with its simple blue flowers and white spots at the base of each leaf or White Madonna (#670) with its serene double white blooms held well above the foliage.

The minis or semis with girl foliage are especially fun to grow. I recall growing Bridal Lady (#7760), a mini with symmetrical variegated girl foliage with large ruffled white bells. It did not bloom frequently, but was nice to attractive when it did. Moreover, many of Jimmy Dates hybrids have unusual characteristics such as wasp flowers, bustle back leaves, or dark, serrated leaves. Celery is an extreme example of one of his unusual hybrids, with blue

wasp flowers and bustle foliage with elongated stems. Another cool violet, which may be lost to time, is Shine Boy. The flowers were single blue, but the leaves were smooth like begonia leaves and the plant was semi-miniature in size.

I have not grown Buckley's spoon, as the leaves appear too exaggerated for my personal taste. However, if you think you will like spooned foliage, give it a try. Furthermore, mosaic variegation is interesting to me. I bought a leaf of Lilian Jarrett Variegated (#2902) and it has grown slowly, which is characteristic of many mosaic variegated violets. I believe it will be worth the wait! To conclude, make some room on your shelves for a few Classic violets and it will not only help you appreciate their timeless simplicity, but how far we've come since the original ten hybrids. Consider sharing a leaf or two before they are gone forever. If you have questions, you may contact me via email regarding the quest for Classic violets. <j-mckinney@mail.com>



Photo Credit: Neil Lipson

Buckeye Delightful

Grower by: Debbie McInnis

Hybridized by: P. Hancock

Standard

Potted African Violets as a Wedding Bouquet

By Tom Glembocki and Anne Nicholas

Are you serious? African Violets as a wedding bouquet? This is the first question that would come to mind for a wedding to include African violets. That is exactly what Anne and Richard Nicholas did recently for their daughter Laura's wedding. The bride and bridesmaids carried bouquets of African violets. (You can read about this "Violet Wedding" story in another article in this issue.) Detailed here is a step by step guide to creating African violet wedding bouquets.

Crafting a Lace Holder

The big job for Anne Nicholas was to design a 'bouquet' that would encompass the entire potted plant. It would be a violet, but must look like a beautiful bouquet. The first step was to make a holder for the pot so it would be somewhat disguised.

Materials needed: lace fabric, 'Stiffy' or any similar fabric stiffener product, desired pot wrapped with Glad Press 'n Seal.

1. Cut lace into circles that are big enough to not only create a pocket for the pot, but also large enough to provide supports for the leaves.
2. Pour the fabric stiffener into a container. Dip the circle of lace into the stiffener.
3. Remove the lace. Shape around the plastic wrapped pot.
4. Place on waxed paper. Secure the lace with rubber band. Let dry.
5. When completely dry (a day or two), peel the basket off the waxed paper and off the plastic wrapped pot.

Sparkly Rhinestones

In between the flowers of each African Violet, wired rhinestones and small white silk flowers make a dazzling display.

Materials needed: Sheer ribbon, wired rhine-

stones (purchased at a local craft store), small white silk flowers, floral picks, floral tape.

1. Cut ribbon into a 4 - 5 in. strip.
2. If the wired rhinestones were purchased in a small bundle, separate them into small picks of 3 - 5 rhinestones.
3. Pick out a small cluster of 2 - 3 tiny silk blossoms.
4. Use the wire of the floral pick to combine the ribbon, rhinestones, and silk blossoms together.
5. Wrap the entire pick with the floral wrap to secure and make neat.
6. Will need 5 or so of these picks, depending on the size of the violet.

Ribbon Streamers

Festive ribbons trail from the pot in colors that match the blossoms of the plant they are attached to.

Materials needed: Satin ribbon, sheer ribbon, floral wire, hot glue, strapping tape, slip pot.

1. Make ribbon loops. Secure with floral wire. These should be slightly longer than the length of the leaf of the violet. Attach the loops to an inverted slip pot with hot glue. They are attached to the outside of the lip of the pot. Remember that when held, these will fold over the other streamers.
2. Make the ribbon streamers. Cut into lengths of about 18 inches. They can be trimmed later to a shorter length if desired. Attach the ribbons over the ribbon loops. Finish the streamers with the wider satin ribbons on both sides.
3. Cover all with strapping tape.
4. When the slip pot is turned back over, the ribbons will flow as if coming from the inside of the pot. Also by attaching to the outside of the pot, there will be no problem of bulk interfering with the slip potting of the violet.

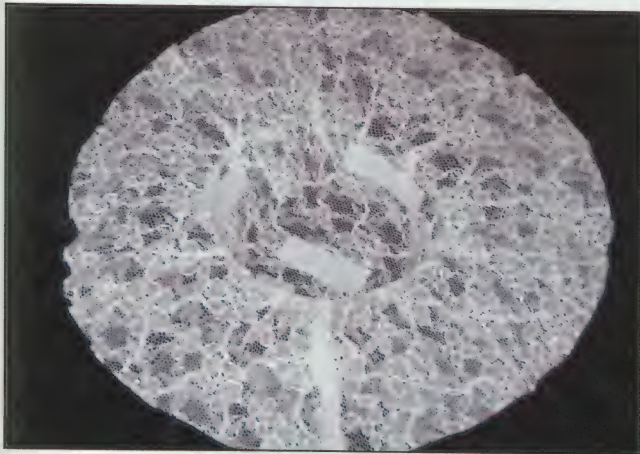
Final Assembly

Now that the rhinestones are sparkling, the ribbons are glued and the lace basket is ready, it's time to put it all together.

Materials needed: African violet, lace basket, slip pot with attached ribbon streamers, ribbon inserts, Double sided Velcro, Oasis clear waterproof tape (available from a florist)

1. Make sure the slip pot is prepared as for a show, whatever is normally used to prevent drips, etc.
2. Place the African violet into the slip pot. If the plant is wicked, trim or remove the wick so it sits evenly in the pot.
3. Secure the plant pot to the slip pot. To do this, use the Oasis tape. Start the tape at the inside of the lip of the violet pot. Run the tape down the side of the slip pot, under the slip pot, and
4. Attach Velcro strips to the inside of the lace baskets. Place the corresponding Velcro strip to similar locations on the outside of the slip pot.
5. Place the slip pot into the lace basket. Press the Velcro strips together so the basket is attached firmly to the slip pot.
6. If needed, trim the edge of the lace basket so it conforms to the circumference of the leaf formation.
7. Carefully place the ribbon inserts among the blossoms. Push gently into the soil.

Trim ribbons as desired. Finished!!!!



Lace cut into circle, soaked in "Stiffy" and formed around a violet pot covered in Glad wrap as a release agent.



Assembled "rhinestone picks" ready for insertion into the potted African Violet plant.



The starched lace makes a perfect lace basket that fits around the outside of the pot.



Mary Craig with the wired rhinestones, small silk flowers and sheer ribbons.



Ribbon loops attach to a slip pot. They will fold over the streamer ribbons.



The ribbons attach to the ribbon loops and then are covered with strapping tape all around the pot.



With the pot now turned right side up you can see the ribbon loops covering the streamers.



The ribbons and streamers are attached to the pot and the pot is placed inside the lave basket for this photo.



The violet 'Lonestar Helen Mahr' seated in the slip pot. Notice the ribbon loops extending just beyond the leaves.



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Rob's Fuddy Duddy

Best Semiminiature African Violet

Exhibited by: Barb Lafashia

Hybridized by: R. Robinson

Semiminiature

First Class for All

By David Kesler
Chairman, AVSA Technology Committee

Let me begin with a short history review for those that have not been following my Technology reports over the last year. At the 2016 national convention, I asked Joe Bruns (developer of First Class version 2(FCv2)) if it would be “ok” to develop a “First Class for Mac.” He was happy that someone in the Mac world had stepped up to volunteer for the task. He had been putting notes together for a new version 3 of First Class, which he graciously shared with me. I took those notes and a several of my ideas and developed First Class for Mac (FC4Mac), which was introduced at the 2017 national convention. Sometime after that, Joe told me that he was getting prepared to start work on “version 3”. Because the language that I had used to developed FC4Mac could also run on Windows machines, I offered to let him review FC4Mac in PC format to see if it fulfilled his vision for the yet unwritten First Class v3. He happily reported that FC4Mac included everything that he had in mind plus quite a few other features that were not on his drawing board. I had hoped that would be the case since Joe carries such a big load at AVSA and lightening his list of duties was one of the reasons I came on board. If you didn’t know, Joe is the one that prepares the bi-monthly updates to the AVML that keeps it up to date with the new varieties registered and listed. There are a lot of moving parts that go into that bi-monthly update and I am extremely grateful to Joe for his labor of love in this regard. He also developed and maintains the “Entries” program, which is much more complex than First Class. About 8 months ago I started asking a few PC users to help me test FC4Mac on the PC platform, knowing that there would be some issues. Most all of the problems that were discovered were minor in nature. Most of these issues were the result of Mac and PC using slightly different sizes for the same font on the screen. While there were some more complex differences First Class for All is the same program, whether it

is run on PC or Mac. This fulfills the goal given by Winston Goretsky, then president of AVSA, of having First Class features at parity for both major desktop/laptop operating systems.

How did the name “First Class for All” come about? I had been working with First Class for Mac for a year and a half, so First Class for PC seemed to be a reasonable name for that version. However, while doing documentation I got really annoyed at having to type First Class for Mac/PC for every reference to the common areas of the program, which is 99% the case. I decided, very late in the game to switch to a new name that indicates the unified nature of the program, First Class for All. “All” meaning the 99% of users on desktop or laptop system. Sorry, currently, “All” does not include iPad, iPhone, or Android devices.

That brings us up to date as far as the development of First Class for All (FCA) is concerned. But, what does FCA bring to the AV grower’s table and why would anyone want to buy a new program to replace one that is not broken? I will cover these two questions separately.

First, what features and benefits does FCA offer that will help African Violet growers get more enjoyment out of their hobby/obsession? Here is a partial list:

1. Automatic program updates whenever an internet connection is available. This keeps your system up to date with the latest features. I have also included a way to decline the update for people that have a data capped internet plan.
2. Full-screen mode. This feature received a big round of applause at the convention introduction of FCA.
3. A new Photo layout that allows the viewing of the thumbnails of all photos available for the variety and the ability to simply drag and drop a photo/file onto a thumbnail to included it in your system.

4. A modern search method in the AVML and User Database tabs that allow for matching any part of the name of the variety, not just the beginning letters.
5. Streamlined note entry.
6. In the Search tab, you can highlight multiple lines of matches to make a "mass" copy of records to the print list.
7. The way that multiple copies of the same variety are selected for print is greatly simplified. You only need to Copy to Print List once. In the Print tab you can indicate how many copies of that variety you would like to print.
8. Enhanced label usage. You can now use EVERY label on the page, a very "green" feature.
9. There are currently two new reports available in the Print tab, the AVSA Entry Form, and the User-defined Grooming Schedule report. The Entry Form allows you list your entries and print them on a form that includes a "QR" code as well as the text from the AVML. This GREATLY simplifies the work that is done at a show by both the Classifications and Entries staff. Classifications will not need to look up the descriptions on plants in FC because it is printed directly on the form. Entries can use a special, inexpensive, scanner in conjunction with the Entries program to scan your entries directly into the program. Those varieties that are not available in the AVML will also be printed on the form, out of the user database, providing a legible variety name for the Entries personnel.
10. There is one new File Option. You can now add varieties from the AVML directly to the User Database (UDB). At the convention, someone asked, why would you do that? The AVML tab notes can be easily added, but those notes are for the Variety, not an individual plant. If you want to track individual plants in your collection, you can add them to the User Database. The notes and photos added in the UDB will attach to that record that represents a plant, not a variety. There are many uses for the UDB, but this is the most basic of those uses. By specifying the "Number of Labels" to more than one, you can add multiple records in one operation of the same variety.
11. The User Database tab has all of the enhancements that are found in the AVML tab plus two other new features. "Build a Note" is a feature that allows you to use the standard notes that are included or add new notes that you need. These notes can be added with just a few mouse clicks without having to type the text of the note every time, a real time saver if you write a lot of notes in your UDB. The "ADD-INFO" slide-out window allows for editing database information in your UDB records that is not normally available for editing. It has some powerful uses if you have a large collection and want to know what stand, shelf and tray a particular plant is located.
12. The point size of the text in the UDB notes field is user definable to allow for flexible viewing of these notes.
13. You can Duplicate or Delete a UDB record with a minimal number of keystrokes.
14. A Backup and Restore function has been added. For current AVSA members, the program will allow you to backup all of the information that you have entered into the system. All notes entered on the AVML tab, all information entered in the User Database tab, all saved Print Lists, all User-defined Grooming Schedule report text, all "A" and "D" pictures from both AVML and UDB areas, and the settings for you system. If the worst happens and your computer crashes and your NORMAL backup is not available or up to date with the latest FCA backup, you can Restore FCA user-entered information from our dedicated backup cloud.
15. There is a new tab available for Hybridizing records. This tab is not seen initially so that it does take up space for those that do not need the functionality. While it is very functional in its initial release, it is a "work in progress" and those that begin using it early will be able to make suggestions/requests that will guide

its continued development. The Hybridizing tab makes use of the Print tab for it's printing and file option functionality.

16. At least one more tab is in the planning stages that will specifically cover an area of AV grower's interest that is very underserved.
17. Context sensitive access to the FCA instruction manual along with video tutorials for basic operation (requires internet access).
18. The Vintage information that is in AVML is visible. There is an ongoing project to get the year of listing for each variety in the AVML. This has great benefit to judges and awards at a show.

Second, why would anyone buy a new program when the old program is not broken?

1. First Class v. 2 will not have any new features added. Joe has said that he will continue to do "bug" fixes when necessary for the foreseeable future, however.
2. FCA is built with very modern tools that will allow it to be extended beyond where we can see today. The data is stored in a "SQL database." This allows for easy additions to the type of data stored and ways to combine information easily.
3. Since both PC and Mac computers are using FCA, the methods and techniques of access and use are common. This will make support much easier and sharing between users more effective.
4. FCA was designed to have as few user "hurdles" to jump. I think I can say if you are familiar with FCv2, you will be at home in FCA. Things are laid out in very similar fashion and terminology is maintained between the two programs.
5. The price of FCA is the same as it has been for FCv2. \$27.50 for members of AVSA and

\$40.00 for non-members. 100% of the price goes to AVSA general fund, a plus for all of us as members.

6. If you have purchased FCv2 after January 1, 2017, call the AVSA office and Amy can supply you with a link to get your "grandfathered" free copy. This is the most generous free offer I have heard of between major releases, much less completely new systems.
7. The AVML database update subscription password system that is currently in use for FCv2 works in FCA also. With the purchase of FCA, you will be sent a password that adds 6 months to your current subscription. If you don't have a current subscription, 6 months update to the AVML data comes with the price of FCA.
8. On the PC platform, the first time FCA is launched, you will be given the opportunity to convert your FCv2 user data. This leaves FCv2 data in place for use with FCv2, it just reads and converts the notes, user-database, and user-entered photos over the new format.
9. You can use FCv2 and FCA both until you are comfortable with the new system, FCv2 stays fully functional. It's not like changing horses in mid-stream, more like getting a young horse trained while riding the trusted older one.

For those that are still with me and haven't been convinced of the feature/benefit for value argument and my points about why you should buy a new program haven't swayed you, then be assured that you can continue to use FCv2 just as you have been. In the future you may want to upgrade, when you do FCA will be available.

First Class for All is in the AVSA store as of July 1, 2018.

TIP!

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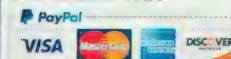


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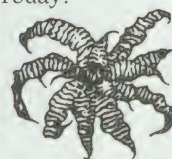
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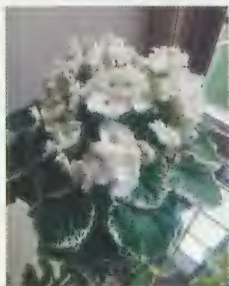


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African Violet

MAGAZINE

September • October 2018

Volume 71

Number 5



AVSA Information

FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITHIN YOUR SOCIETY

FOR ACCURATE SERVICE, SEND YOUR INQUIRIES TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

AVSA OFFICE: Amy Carruth, Office Manager, (844) 400-AVSA (2872), 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, (409) 839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CST. *Email* <avsa@earthlink.net>. Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; phone 409-839-4725. Remit in U.S. dollars with draft or check on a USA bank. **See Membership Application.** Master Card/Visa accepted.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Joyce Stork, 1012 Skysail Dr., Henderson, NV 89011. *Email* <kentsflowersgmail.com>

AFFILIATES: For information on Affiliates or how to organize a chapter, write Jeri Anderson, 1640 N. Kelly Place, Tucson, AZ 85715. *Email* <twajda1@comcast.net>

AVSA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION: Charles Ramser, 2413 Martin St., Wichita Falls, TX 78308. *Email* <charles.ramser@mwso.edu>

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES AND COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: Lynn Lombard, 790 Ridgecrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713. For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Lynn Lombard, *Email* <lynn_lombard@worldnet.att.net>

CONVENTION AWARDS: Send suggestions to: Debbie McInnis, 3620 Eagles Trace, Floyds Knob, IN 47119. *Email* <dkmcinnis@twc.com>. Send contributions to AVSA, 2375 North St., Beaumont, TX 77702.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Kathy Lahti, Convention Director, 4157 Oliver Ave. N.W., Annandale, MN 55302, *Email* <lahti@lakedalelink.net> If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Houston, TX. May 26 - June 2, 2019.

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MVL SUPPLEMENTS: Download from AVSA website, or order from AVSA office for \$2. Orders in writing only. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to: Joe Bruns, 1220 Stratford Lane, Hanover Park, IL 50130.

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RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified, potential research personnel to Dr. Jeff Smith, 3014 W. Amherst Rd., Muncie, IN 47304.

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: For information on Shows, AVSA Awards, and Approving Schedules write to: Meredith Hall, P.O. Box 370, Marlin, TX 76661. *Email* <m.hall@reagan.com>. **Do not send Show Schedules by Email - this address is for information ONLY.**

PRICES FOR AVSA ROSETTES, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2012: SSA Packet with no rosettes \$5. Orders for rosettes must be specific as to which is needed-standard, species, mini-semi; they may be mixed, color and size all same price. **All rosettes are \$5 each added to price of SSA packet.**

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ARTICLES: FEATURES, COLUMNS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles and Columns: Jan. issue - Nov. 1; Mar. issue - Jan. 1; May issue - Mar. 1; July issue - May 1; Sept. issue - July 1; Nov. issue - Sep. 1.

COMING EVENTS: Send to Editor.

Coming Events Deadlines: - Jan. 1; May issue - Mar. 1; July issue - May 1; Sept. issue - July 1; Nov. issue - Sep. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and information: Cindi Nofziger, 1035 Lakewood Dr., Albany, OR 97321. *Email* <ccnofziger@comcast.net> (541) 926-8116 **(Ad rates on web site: AVSA.org).**

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan/Feb. issue - Nov. 1; Mar/Apr. issue - Jan. 1; May/June issue - Mar. 1; July/Aug. issue - May 1; Sept./Oct. issue - July 1; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 1.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

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The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November.

Periodical postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a non-profit organization at

2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 and at additional mailing offices.

Subscription \$35.00 per year which is included in membership dues • Copyright 2018 The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

POSTMASTER: Please send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Magazine • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, TX 77702

African Violet

September • October

Volume 71

Number 5

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Bashou

Judges Special Award

Exhibited by: Annie Simard

Hybridized by: F. Pilon

Standard trailer (CA)

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

President's Message

By Richard Nicholas - *President*

3113 Deerfield Dr. • Denton, TX 76208

Email: randanicho@aol.com

AVSA Friends:

Here we are in the middle of summer heat in Texas as I write. Maybe it will be a little cooler by the time you read this column – but I doubt it. It is time to take a little extra care of our violets so they do not suffer in the higher heat and to get them ready for fall shows and sales. Your Executive Committee will meet at the fall show of the Missouri Valley African Violet Council in Tulsa.

Our house has a new feeling of chaos. A new Border Collie puppy has moved in. She is loving and boisterous and has only destroyed one strep and five small violets. Enough said.

With this issue we welcome AVSA's new editor, Teresa Odle. From our phone and email communications I know we have a wonderful successor to Ruth Rumsey. I hope everyone will welcome Teresa. Let her know what you would like to see in the AVM and, better yet, be prepared to submit articles to her. She is clearly prepared to edit articles as needed and make each of us sound good when writing. Also, we should all give a big **"thank you"** to interim editor Shirley Jones, who stepped in at a difficult transition time to keep our AVM going, and going well.

In the last issue I mentioned that AVSA will soon be planning options related to the



**Save the dates
of May 26
through June 2
for our Houston
convention
and show!**

status of the office building in Beaumont. We finally have scheduled some repair estimates. I will be working with Beaumont commercial realtors to understand the real value of our property and local options for possible purchase or rental. In addition, plans are underway for a "volunteer day" at the office. As amazing as our Office Manager Amy is, she is too busy to manage all the old files, equipment, archives and clean-up. So, a group of members who are within driving distance will be headed to Beaumont in the near future. Other trips and volunteers might be needed. If you would like to participate, let me know.

Our AVSA Houston 2019 convention planning group is already working hard with the support of our Convention Director, Kathy Lahti. The Marriott Westchase hotel is beautiful and is large enough to hold two of our shows at the same time. Decisions soon will be made for room selections, presentation topics and tours. So, **save the dates of May 26 through June 2** for our Houston convention and show! Whether you come to enter plants, to see the beautiful entries or just to enjoy our violet family, plan to be there. Remember, Violets Connect us!

Richard

Editor's Notes

By Teresa Odle - AVM Editor

P.O. Box 1828 • Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346

Email: editor@avsa.org

It's hot across much of the country today as I work on my first issue of *African Violet Magazine*. So, I moved to work under a ceiling fan while I reflect on these initial whirlwind weeks.

What comes to mind first is how much I want to thank all of you who have guided and advised me, including several members or committee chairs who have called or sent welcome email messages. I especially want to thank Shirley Jones, who filled in as interim editor for months and who is a delight to work with and a real pro.

Getting AVM to You

It takes more time than you might think to get AVM from my overheated office to your mailbox. Although I am new to AVSA, I've been an experienced editor longer than I care to admit on this first impression. Computers have made editing and designing publications much easier, but there still are plenty of steps involved, such as: planning issues and making sure we include regular columns and features, seeking articles and contest entries, editing articles and returning them to authors for clarification when necessary, gathering and ensuring quality of photos, working with a graphic designer (Shirley) to lay the articles out, proofing ads, proofing articles multiple times and then pulling all of it together into a full issue. Once we have it ready, there still are lots of steps such as proofreading, time at the printer and the mailing/distribution.

I love the process of editing. In my time as a freelancer or full-time editor, I've only missed one deadline – because of a major skiing accident. But that's not a good story for first impressions either...



**"I just want
AVSA
members to
know that
meeting my
deadlines is a
top priority."**

I just want AVSA members to know that meeting my deadlines is a top priority, right up there with producing a high-quality publication to meet reader needs and wishes.

New Deadlines for Contributors

The only way I can produce a quality publication on time is with the generous help of regular columnists, advertisers and other writers. I want to work with you to make contributing to AVM a smooth and painless process. That's why I've already changed deadlines for articles (see page 21 for new deadlines) so they are closer to the publication date. The deadline is two months out, but as I mentioned, there's a lot of behind-the-scenes work between the time we start a new issue and it's delivered. I can only do so much to influence bulk mail times, but I can work with the Editorial Board, Sue Ramser,

Shirley and all our contributors to make sure I stay on schedule.

This Is Your Magazine

AVM is your publication, and even though I'll work hard to make it consistently the best magazine I can, I'll need your help. The closer to the new deadlines I receive articles and images, the more likely we'll meet the final deadline to get each issue to you. And the more all members contribute, the better the content.

I look forward to working with our new Editorial Board, chaired by Paul Kroll, and with all contributors, advertisers and AVSA committees. Thanks again for your warm welcome and future collaboration!



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Kohleria 'Manchu'

Exhibited by: Margaret Califano

2018 AVSA & AVSC Buffalo Show Awards

“African Violets Can Link Us Together”

May 25, 2018 - Buffalo, NY

By Debbie McInnis

Best African Violet in Show

Cajun's Fair Maiden

Won by: Debbie McInnis, Floyds Knobs, IN

2nd Best African Violet in Show

Demer's Pixie Belle

Won by: William Price, Vancouver, BC

3rd Best African Violet in Show

S. 5a clone *grandifolius* No. 237

Won by: Debbie McInnis, Floyds Knobs, IN

Best African Violet, Canadian Origination

Demer's Pixie Belle

Won by: William Price, Vancouver, BC

Best AVSA Standard Collection

Johnny Angel, Cajun's Freckleface Kid,

Jersey Snow Flakes

Won by: Debbie McInnis, Floyds Knobs, IN

Best Standard AVSC Collection

Bashou, Shina, Tatoo

Won by: Pierre Laforrest,

Fabreville, (Laval), Quebec

Best AVSA Mini/Semimini Collection

Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Rob's Plaid Skirt,

Rob's Oolong

Won by: Sandra Skalski, Mullica Hill, NJ

2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semimini Collection

Jolly Orchid, Texas Space Dust, Little Blue Bandit

Won by: Anne Brown, Nova Scotia

Best AVSA Species Collection

S. 5h clone Kacharoroni, S. 5c1 clone Sigi Falls,

S. 5c1 clone tongwensis

Won by: Susan Arnao, Ocean City, NJ

2nd Best AVSA Species Collection

S. 5h clone *rupicolus*, S. 5c1 clone House of

Amani, S. 6 clone *brevipilosus* Mather No. 10

Won by: Adrienne Rieck, Olympia Fields, IL

Best Holtkamp Collection

Optimara Yellowstone, Optimara Hiroshige,

Optimara myDesire

Won by: Marie Gagnon, Beloeil, Quebec

2nd Best Holtkamp Collection

Optimara Little Pearl, Optimara Little Rhodonite,

Optimara Little Crystal

Won by: Kathy Lahti, Annandale, MN

3rd Best Holtkamp Collection

Optimara Little Blackfoot, Optimara Little

Arapahoe, Optimara Little Omaha

Won by: Debbie McInnis, Floyds Knobs, IN

Best Robinson Collection

Rob's Gundaroo, Rob's Boolaroo,

Rob's Humpty Doo

Won by: Sandra Skalski, Mullica Hill, NJ

2nd Best Robinson Collection

Rob's Scooter, Rob's Fiddle Faddle,

Rob's Monkeyshines

Won by: Kathy Lahti, Annandale, MN

Best Buckeye Collection

Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler, Buckeye Country Gal,

Buckeye Nostalgia

Won by: Sandra Skalski, Mullica Hill, NJ

2nd Best Buckeye Collection

Buckeye Too Shameless, Buckeye Tea Party,

Buckeye Concord Grape

Won by: Debbie McInnis, Floyds Knobs, IN

Best AVSA Russian/Ukrainian Collection

LE-Prekrasnaia Kreolka, Kosmicheskaia

Legenda-2, EK-Laskovyi Mai

Won by: Debbie McInnis, Floyds Knobs, IN

**2nd Best AVSA Russian/
Ukrainian Collection**

LE-Prekrasnaia Kreolka, LE-Eseniia, PT-Luiza

Won by: Alla Kotova, Hamilton, Ontario

Best Lyon's Collection

Persian Lace, Cupid's Jewel, Lyon's June Bug

Won by: Sandra Skalski, Mullica Hill, NJ

2nd Best Lyon's Collection

Frozen in Time, Wild Irish Rose, Taffeta Blue

Won by: Alla Kotova, Hamilton, Ontario

Best Standard African Violet

Cajun's Fair Maiden

Won by: Debbie McInnis, Floyds Knobs, IN

**Best Standard AV, Canadian Origination –
Heather Demers Memorial Award**

Picasso

Won by: Barbara Greenawalt, Glen Allen, VA

Best Miniature African Violet

Rob's Love Bite

Won by: Sandra Skalski, Mullica Hill, NJ

**Best Miniature African Violet,
Canadian Origination**

Imp's Amethyst Shards

Won by: Anne Brown, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Best Semiminiature African Violet

Rob's Fuddy Duddy

Won by: Barb Lafashia, Wilmington, DE

**Best Semiminiature African Violet,
Canadian Origination**

Morgan's Sophronia

Won by: Beverley Williams, Brooklin, Ontario

Best Trailer

Demer's Pixie Belle

Won by: William Price, Vancouver,

British Columbia

Best Trailer, Canadian Origination

Demer's Pixie Belle

Won by: William Price, Vancouver,

British Columbia

Best Species African Violet

S. 5a clone *grandifolius* No. 237

Won by: Debbie McInnis, Floyds Knobs, IN

Best New Cultivar - Amateur

Sport of Frozen in Time

Won by: Janet Riemer, Pennington, NJ

2nd Best New Cultivar - Amateur

Sport of Lavender Bliss

Won by: Randy McMahon, Ankeny, IA

3rd Best New Cultivar - Amateur

Sport of 'Rob's Chilly Willy'

Won by: Maureen Pratt, Los Angeles, CA

Best Vintage Violet

Woodland Sprite

Won by: Sherrie Zimmerman, Columbus, OH

Best Vintage Violet, Canadian Origination

Sansoucy' Olympe

Won by: Annie Simard,

from Mont-Saint-Hilaire, Quebec

Best Variegated Standard African Violet

Cajun's Fair Maiden

Won by: Debbie McInnis, Floyds Knobs, IN

Best Variegated Miniature African Violet

Rob's Love Bite

Won by: Sandra Skalski, Mullica Hill, NJ

**Best Variegated Semiminiature
African Violet**

Rob's Combustible Pigeon

Won by: Vicki Ferguson, Dayton, OH

Best Streptocarpus

S. 'Heartland's White Gold'

Won by: Adrienne Rieck, Olympia Fields, IL

Best Peter Shalit Hybrid

Primulina 'Loki' (Curly)

Won by: Linda Hall, Ravenwood, MO

Best Other Gesneriad*Columnea microphylla*

Won by: Beverly Williams, Brooklin, Ontario

Design**Best Design in Show**

"Hoop"

Won by: B.J. Ohme, Arcadia, NE

2nd Best Design in Show

"Chain Stitch"

Won by: Judy Zinni, Mississauga, Ontario

3rd Best Design in Show

"Water Borders"

Won by: B.J. Ohme, Arcadia, NE

Best Interpretive Plant Arrangement

"Hoop"

Won by: B.J. Ohme, Arcadia, NE

Best Interpretive Flower Arrangement

"Chain Stitch"

Won by: Judy Zinni, Mississauga, Ontario

Best Container Garden

"Dish Garden"

Won by: Lee Hoke, Rome, NY

Best Terrarium

"Terrarium - curved glass"

Won by: Sayeh Beheshti, Toronto, Ontario

Best Dish Garden

"Dish Garden"

Won by: Lee Hoke, Rome, NY

Commercial**Best African Violet in Show - Commercial**

Aly's Rosy Baby

Won by: B.J. Ohme, Arcadia, NE

2nd Best African Violet in Show - Commercial

N-Adam

Won by: Steve Turner, North Myrtle Beach, SC

3rd Best African Violet in Show - Commercial

Kostina Fantaziia

Won by: Violet Barn, Naples, NY

Best AVSA Mini/Semimini Collection - Commercial

Irish Flirt, Jolly Jan, Optimara Little Hopi II

Won by: B.J. Ohme, Arcadia, NE

Best Other Gesneriad - Commercial*Episcia* 'Kee Wee'

Won by: Steve Turner, North Myrtle Beach, SC

Best New Cultivar - Commercial

Jolly Glow

Won by: B.J. Ohme, Arcadia, NE

2nd Best New Cultivar - Commercial

Rob's Funny Bunny

Won by: Violet Barn, Naples, NY

3rd Best New Cultivar - Commercial

Jolly Heavensent

Won by: B.J. Ohme, Arcadia, NE

Best Horticulture Showcase

Showcase - Horticulture

Won by: Donna Brining, Hammonton, NJ

Best Artistic Showcase

Commercial Showcase - artistic

Won by: B.J. Ohme, Arcadia, NE

*For a full list of winners,
go to AVSA.org/2018-awards*





Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Sport of Frozen in Time

Best New Cultivar - Amateur

Exhibited by: Janet Riemer

Standard

Registration Report

By Joe Brun

1220 Stratford Lane • Hanover Park, IL 60133

Email: jbruns@qwip.net

Joan Baker – Thief River Falls, MN

'Rivermist Annie' (10970)

04/13/2018 (J. Baker) Semidouble lavender-pink large star/variable light pink mottling and veining, thin blue fluted edge. **Variegated** dark green and pink, quilted, ruffled, serrated/red back. **Standard**

'Rivermist Beguiling' (10971)

04/13/2018 (J. Baker) Single-semidouble medium red-pink large ruffled star/white puff fantasy. **Variegated** medium green and pink, ovate, quilted. **Standard**

'Rivermist Calypso' (10972) 04/13/2018

(J. Baker) Single-semidouble red-pink large star/white puff fantasy, dark red and purple streaks. **Variegated** medium green, cream and pink, ovate, quilted, glossy/variable white-spotted red back. **Standard**

'Rivermist Galaxy' (10973) 04/13/2018

(J. Baker) Single-semidouble blue-purple large star/white puff fantasy, pink and red streaks. **Variegated** dark green and pink, ovate, quilted, glossy/white-spotted red back. **Standard**

'Rivermist Pearls' (10974) 04/13/2018

(J. Baker) Single-semidouble light pink star/white puff fantasy. **Variegated** medium green and pink, ovate, quilted, glossy/variable white-spotted red back. **Standard**

'Rivermist Psycho' (10975) 04/13/2018

(J. Baker) Single-semidouble red-purple large star/white puff fantasy. **Variegated** medium green and pink, ovate, quilted, serrated. **Standard**



edge. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, plain, glossy. **Large**

'Buckeye Lady Love' (10978)

04/24/2018 (P. Hancock) Single-semidouble rose large ruffled star/lighter edge. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, plain, glossy/red back. **Large**

'Buckeye Rhythm 'n' Blues'

(10979) 04/24/2018 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double blue large ruffled pansy/wide white edge. **Variegated** medium green and cream, plain, glossy. **Large**

Olive and Ralph Robinson – Naples, NY

'Ma's Double Charm' (10980) 05/16/2018 (O. Robinson) Double rose-pink star. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

'Ma's Pink Pistol' (10981) 05/16/2018 (O. Robinson) Semidouble white ruffled pansy/pink markings. Medium green, quilted. **Small standard**

'Rob's Funny Bunny' (10982) 05/16/2018 (R. Robinson) Semidouble pink star/darker eye, white edge. **Crown variegated** dark green and cream, pointed, glossy/red back. **Semiminiature**

'Rob's Wascally Wabbit' (10983) 05/16/2018 (R. Robinson) Double light blue star/white shading. **Crown variegated** medium-dark green and beige, pointed. **Miniature**

Pat Hancock – Middletown, OH

'Buckeye Exclamation Point' (10976) 04/24/2018 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double lavender pansy/darker outer petals. **Variegated** dark green and cream, plain, glossy. **Large**

'Buckeye Exotic Dancer' (10977) 04/24/2018 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double purple two-tone ruffled pansy/variable lighter to white

Joan Baker – Thief River Falls, MN

'Rivermist EvaBritta' (10984) 05/21/2018 (J. Baker) Semidouble wine-red large star/white puff fantasy, dark red and pink streaks. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, quilted, glossy/white-spotted red back. **Standard**

'Rivermist Heavenly' (10985) 05/21/2018 (J. Baker) Single-semidouble medium blue-purple star/white puff fantasy, variable pink streaks.

Variegated dark green, cream and pink, pointed, quilted, glossy/variable white-spotted red back. **Standard**

'Rivermist Zombie' (10986) 05/21/2018 (J. Baker) Single-semidouble blue-purple large star/white puff fantasy, dark pink streaks. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, round, quilted/white-spotted red back. **Standard**

Craig Coleman – Greensboro, NC

'Coleman's Queen Arsinoe IV' (10987) 05/23/2018 (C. Coleman) Single purple sticktite wavy star/thin white edge. **Variegated** dark green, pink and white, ovate, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

'Coleman's Queen Hatshepsut' (10988) 05/23/2018 (C. Coleman) Semidouble blue-purple ruffled. **Variegated** dark green, white and pink, pointed, quilted, ruffled. **Standard**

Evgenii Arkhipov – Moscow, Russia

'AE-Deimos Elite' (10989) 05/24/2018 (E. Arkhipov) Single-semidouble medium purple wavy star/white puff fantasy. Medium green, pointed, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

'AE-It's Raining' (10990) 05/24/2018 (E. Arkhipov) Single-semidouble white frilled pansy/purple-fantasied lilac patches. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

'AE-Krasna Devitsa' (10991) 05/24/2018 (E. Arkhipov) Single-semidouble wine-red star. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

'AE-Mlechnyi Put' (10992) 05/24/2018 (E. Arkhipov) Semidouble-double burgundy wavy star/white puff fantasy, darker tips. Dark green, quilted. **Standard**

'AE-Riabinovye Slezy' (10993) 05/24/2018 (E. Arkhipov) Single-semidouble plum-raspberry wavy star/light pink puff fantasy. Dark green, longifolia. **Standard**

'AE-Sharlene Fantasy' (10994) 05/24/2018 (E. Arkhipov) Single white sticktite large frilled star/purple-fantasied lilac patches. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

'AE-Simfoniia Dozhdia' (10995) 05/24/2018 (E. Arkhipov) Single-semidouble white star/purple-

fantasied pink patches. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

'AE-Vodelei New' (10996) 05/24/2018 (E. Arkhipov) Single-semidouble blue large frilled star/light pink puff fantasy. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

Elena Korshunova – Moscow, Russia

'EK-Aliaska' (10997) 05/24/2018 (E. Korshunova) Semidouble white frilled star. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

'EK-Braziliskii Topaz' (10998) 05/24/2018 (E. Korshunova) Single-semidouble blue large star/white frilled edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

'EK-Chernyi Ogon' (10999) 05/24/2018 (E. Korshunova) Single-semidouble red large star/pink streaks, darker petal tips. **Variegated** dark green and cream, plain. **Standard**

'EK-Izumrednoe Kruzhevo' (11000) 05/24/2018 (E. Korshunova) Semidouble-double white large frilled pansy/green edge on upper petals. **Variegated** medium green and cream, wavy. **Standard**

'EK-Malakhitovaia Orkhidaia' (11001) 05/24/2018 (E. Korshunova) Semidouble-double fuchsia large star/white-green frilled edge. Light green, pointed. **Standard**

'EK-Morskoi Volk' (11002) 05/24/2018 (E. Korshunova) Semidouble-double light blue large wavy star. Dark green, quilted. **Standard**

'EK-Nautilus' (11003) 05/24/2018 (E. Korshunova) Single-semidouble white large frilled star/blue eye, light blue rays, green-white edge. Medium green, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

'EK-Portret Neznakomki' (11004) 05/24/2018 (E. Korshunova) Semidouble-double lavender star/purple band, green frilled edge. Medium green, serrated. **Standard**

'EK-Rubinovala Luna' (11005) 05/24/2018 (E. Korshunova) Single-semidouble red large star/random white edge. Medium green, quilted, wavy. **Standard**

'EK-Spiashaia Krasavitsa' (11006) 05/24/2018 (E. Korshunova) Single-semidouble white bell-shaped ruffled star/light maroon patches.

Variegated medium green, cream and yellow, plain. **Standard**

'EK-Tropicheskii Polden' (11007) 05/24/2018 (E. Korshunova) Semidouble-double red large wavy pansy. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

'EK-Viktoria' (11008) 05/24/2018 (E. Korshunova) Single-semidouble red large wavy star/variable white edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

Elena Lebetskaia – Vinnitsa, Ukraine

'LE-Aisedora' (11009) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetskaia) Semidouble-double white large ruffled star/pink markings, fuchsia fantasy. Medium green, quilted, ruffled. **Standard**

'LE-Aisha' (11010) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetskaia) Semidouble-double purple and fuchsia large frilled star. **Variegated** medium green and white, serrated. **Standard**

'LE-Berillov'yi Inei' (11011) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetskaia) Semidouble-double white frilled large star/green edge. **Variegated** medium green and white, quilted. **Standard**

'LE-Blondi' (11012) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetskaia) Semidouble-double white large frilled star/yellow eye and rays. **Variegated** medium green and white, quilted, hairy, wavy, scalloped. **Standard**

'LE-Eliseiskie Polia' (11013) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetskaia) Single-semidouble white star/pink shading, raspberry band, thin white-green edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

'LE-Esmeralda' (11014) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetskaia) Semidouble dark burgundy large star/white-green ruffled edge. Medium green, wavy. **Standard**

'LE-Fandango' (11015) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetskaia) Semidouble-double fuchsia-purple large star/white-green wavy edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**

'LE-Flamenco' (11016) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetskaia) Semidouble raspberry-fuchsia large pansy/frilled white-green edge. **Variegated** medium green and cream, ruffled. **Standard**

'LE-Goluboi Lotos' (11017) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetskaia) Double blue two-tone large

star/thin green-gray edge. **Variegated** medium green and white, plain. **Standard**

'LE-Gortenziia' (11018) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetskaia) Semidouble-double pink large star/white-green ruffled edge. Dark green, wavy. **Standard**

'LE-Irlandiia' (11019) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetskaia) Semidouble white large star/pink patches, ruffled green edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

'LE-Ispanski Tanets' (11020) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetskaia) Semidouble wine-red large ruffled star/variable white edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

'LE-Iuzhnaia Noch' (11021) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetskaia) Single purple sticktite ruffled star/hot pink puff fantasy. **Variegated** medium-dark green, cream and pink, quilted. **Standard**

'LE-Ivetta' (11022) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetskaia) Double white large star/frilled green edge. **Variegated** medium green and white, hairy. **Standard**

'LE-Izol'da' (11023) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetskaia) Double white star/frilled pink edge. **Variegated** medium green and white, wavy. **Standard**

'LE-Karusel' (11024) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetskaia) Single white large ruffled star/red patches. **Variegated** medium green and white, serrated. **Standard**

'LE-Kleopatra' (11025) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetskaia) Semidouble-double light pink large star/blue fantasy. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

'LE-Klubnichnaia Vesna' (11026) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetskaia) Semidouble-double dark coral large frilled star/white edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

'LE-Kol'tsa Saturna' (11027) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetskaia) Single-semidouble lavender large frilled star/darker rays, fuchsia ring around eye, fuchsia band, white edge. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

'LE-Koster' (11028) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetskaia) Semidouble red large frilled pansy/variable white edge. **Variegated** medium green, cream and white, plain, quilted. **Standard**

'LE-Kupava' (11029) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetskaia) Double white star/green edge. Medium green, quilted, wavy. **Standard**

'LE-Lady Winter' (11030) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebedtskaia) Semidouble-double white ruffled large star/random green frilled edge. Medium green, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

'LE-Legkaia Grust' (11031) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebedtskaia) Semidouble lavender-blue large frilled star/darker rays, purple band, variable white-green edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

'LE-Letniaia Noch' (11032) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebedtskaia) Single dark lavender-purple sticktite large wavy star/white and pink puff fantasy. **Variegated** medium green, cream and white, plain. **Standard**

'LE-Leto Krasnoe' (11033) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebedtskaia) Semidouble red large wavy star/variable thin white edge. Medium green, wavy. **Standard**

'LE-Londonskii Rassvet' (11034) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebedtskaia) Semidouble lavender large ruffled star/darker streaks and band, white edge. **Variegated** medium green and white, serrated. **Standard**

'LE-Luntik' (11035) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebedtskaia) Semidouble purple large frilled star/pink puff fantasy, variable white eye, edge. **Variegated** medium green and white, plain. **Standard**

'LE-Madzhenta' (11036) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebedtskaia) Semidouble-double red-purple large wavy star/variable white edge. Medium green. **Standard**

'LE-Marilyn' (11037) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebedtskaia) Semidouble white-pink pansy/green frilled edge. Dark green, quilted, ruffled. **Standard**

'LE-Mednyi Vsadnik' (11038) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebedtskaia) Double white large star/pink blush, frilled green edge. Medium green, quilted, wavy. **Standard**

'LE-Nastia' (11039) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebedtskaia) Single-semidouble white large ruffled star/blue-fantasied pink edge. **Variegated** medium green and white, pointed. **Standard**

'LE-Neapolitanskii Zakat' (11040) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebedtskaia) Double coral large frilled star/variable thin white edge. Medium green, serrated. **Standard**

'LE-Odaliska' (11041) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebedtskaia) Semidouble-double light coral large ruffled

star/darker eye. **Variegated** dark green and white, plain. **Standard**

'LE-Ognennyi Tsvetok' (11042) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebedtskaia) Semidouble-double dark red large ruffled star. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

'LE-Oskar' (11043) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebedtskaia) Semidouble-double white frilled large star/yellow eye and rays, random green on outer petal edges. Medium green, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

'LE-Rozhdenie Galactiki' (11044) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebedtskaia) Single lilac sticktite large frilled star/white eye, dark lilac ring around eye. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

'LE-Rozmari' (11045) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebedtskaia) Double medium pink large ruffled star/purple fantasy, variable white edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

'LE-Rubin Mogolov' (11046) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebedtskaia) Semidouble raspberry-red large wavy star/variable thin purple edge. Dark green, heart-shaped. **Standard**

'LE-Sedoy Graf' (11047) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebedtskaia) Semidouble gray-green large ruffled star/dark lavender eye. **Variegated** dark green and white, quilted, ruffled. **Standard**

'LE-Sestra Korolevy' (11048) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebedtskaia) Double rose large star/green ruffled edge. Dark green, wavy. **Standard**

'LE-Shato Brion' (11049) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebedtskaia) Double dark ruby-wine large star/white ruffled edge. Medium green, wavy. **Standard**

'LE-Shato Margo' (11050) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebedtskaia) Double white large wavy star/wine-purple mottling, variable white-green edge. Medium green, wavy. **Standard**

'LE-Sirenevaia Nezhnost' (11051) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebedtskaia) Double lavender ruffled star. Light green, quilted. **Standard**

'LE-Sitets Letnego Neba' (11052) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebedtskaia) Single white sticktite cupped ruffled star/variable yellow rays, pale blue fantasy. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

'LE-Staika Babochek' (11053) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebedtskaia) Single-semidouble pink large frilled pansy/raspberry band, white edge. Medium green, ovate. **Standard**

'LE-Stefaniia Liuks' (11054) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetkaia) Single-semidouble pink large pansy/variable white eye, white-green ruffled edge. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

'LE-Tantsor Disco' (11055) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetkaia) Single white large star/pink patches, purple frilled edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

'LE-Tigra' (11056) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetkaia) Single-semidouble burgundy large wavy star/wide white eye. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

'LE-Vishnia v Sakhare' (11057) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetkaia) Semidouble-double red large ruffled star. **Variegated** medium green, cream and white, plain. **Standard**

'LE-Zelenaia Roza' (11058) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetkaia) Double white and pink large star/green frilled edge. Light-medium green, ruffled. **Standard**

'LE-Zhisel' (11059) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetkaia) Semidouble-double white large ruffled star. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

'LE-Zolotaia Lilia' (11060) 05/24/2018 (E. Lebetkaia) Double white large ruffled star/pink eye, yellow rays. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

Galina Lazarenko – Klin, Russia

'LiK-Belaia Kolybel' (11061) 05/24/2018 (G. Lazarenko) Semidouble-double white large ruffled star. Medium green, serrated. **Standard**

'LiK-Belyi Angel' (11062) 05/24/2018 (G. Lazarenko) Single-semidouble white frilled star. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted. **Standard**

'LiK-Diadora' (11063) 05/24/2018 (G. Lazarenko) Double pink large ruffled star/wide white edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

'LiK-Kralechka' (11064) 05/24/2018 (G. Lazarenko) Single white-pink star/fuchsia sparkle edge. Medium green, pointed, serrated. **Standard**

'LiK-Kruzhevo Sud'by' (11065) 05/24/2018 (G. Lazarenko) Single-semidouble fuchsia star/darker veins, ruffled pink edge. Dark green, ruffled. **Standard**

'LiK-Neulovimye Oblaka' (11066) 05/24/2018 (G. Lazarenko) Semidouble-double large white and two-tone blue. Light green, wavy, serrated. **Standard**

'LiK-Shelest Voln' (11067) 05/24/2018 (G. Lazarenko) Single-semidouble blue large star/white frilled edge. Medium green, wavy. **Standard**

'LiK-Svetlaia Vest' (11068) 05/24/2018 (G. Lazarenko) Single-semidouble white large ruffled star/pink shading. Medium green, heart-shaped, serrated. **Standard**

'LiK-Tverskie Uzory' (11069) 05/24/2018 (G. Lazarenko) Double pink large ruffled/blue fantasy. Medium green, pointed, serrated. **Standard**

Tatiana Pugacheva – Kursk, Russia

'PT-Aprel'skii Denek' (11070) 05/24/2018 (T. Pugacheva) Single-semidouble pink large frilled star/fuchsia sparkle band, variable white edge. Medium green, wavy. **Standard**

'PT-Dikaia Sliva' (11071) 05/24/2018 (T. Pugacheva) Double blue and purple large ruffled star. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

'PT-Magda' (11072) 05/24/2018 (T. Pugacheva) Single-semidouble red wavy star/darker streaks, thin white edge. **Variegated** dark green, white and beige. **Standard**

'PT-Svetlanka' (11073) 05/24/2018 (T. Pugacheva) Semidouble-double light pink large ruffled star/purple fantasy, variable thin white-green edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

Natal'ia Skorniakova – Kursk, Russia

'RM-Blondinochka' (11074) 05/24/2018 (N. Skorniakova) Semidouble-double white frilled star/variable pink blush. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

'RM-Lubliana' (11075) 05/24/2018 (N. Skorniakova) Single-semidouble coral-pink large ruffled star. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

Svetlana Repkina – Lugansk, Ukraine

‘RS-Akvamarin’ (11076) 05/24/2018 (S. Repkina) Double white large frilled star/blue patches. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

‘RS-Alye Parusa’ (11077) 05/24/2018 (S. Repkina) Single rose-pink frilled star/darker eye and rays. Dark green, quilted. **Standard**

‘RS-Annabel’ (11078) 05/24/2018 (S. Repkina) Single-semidouble pink two-tone large pansy/random darker tips, white-green ruffled edge. **Variegated** medium green, white and cream, quilted. **Standard**

‘RS-Ariia’ (11079) 05/24/2018 (S. Repkina) Double white large wavy star/fuchsia patches. Dark green, quilted. **Standard**

‘RS-Bog Solntsa’ (11080) 05/24/2018 (S. Repkina) Semidouble-double red large star/white ruffled edge. Medium green, pointed. **Standard**

‘RS-Faraon’ (11081) 05/24/2018 (S. Repkina) Single-semidouble dark red large star/thin white-green ruffled edge. Dark green, quilted, ruffled. **Standard**

‘RS-Gertsoginia’ (11082) 05/24/2018 (S. Repkina) Semidouble-double burgundy-red large ruffled star/wide white edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

‘RS-Golubaia Riviera’ (11083) 05/24/2018 (S. Repkina) Semidouble-double medium blue two-tone ruffled star. Dark green, quilted, hairy. **Standard**

‘RS-Grafinia de Monsoro’ (11084) 05/24/2018 (S. Repkina) Single-semidouble pink large frilled star/raspberry sparkle edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted. **Standard**

‘RS-Lesno Kruzhevo’ (11085) 05/24/2018 (S. Repkina) Single-semidouble white star/pink blush, green frilled edge. Dark green, wavy. **Standard**

‘RS-Maestro’ (11086) 05/24/2018 (S. Repkina) Semidouble white large ruffled star/pink eye and rays, blue fantasy. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

‘RS-Manuela’ (11087) 05/24/2018 (S. Repkina) Double pink large star/blue fantasy, white ruffled edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

‘RS-Margaret’ (11088) 05/24/2018 (S. Repkina) Single white large wavy star/red patches. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

‘RS-Marsela’ (11089) 05/24/2018 (S. Repkina) Semidouble-double lilac two-tone large star/white-green frilled edge. Medium green, ruffled. **Standard**

‘RS-Ofeliia’ (11090) 05/24/2018 (S. Repkina) Double white and blue large frilled star/variable green toward edges. Medium green, wavy. **Standard**

‘RS-Ogon’ Zhelanii’ (11091) 05/24/2018 (S. Repkina) Single dark red frilled star/lighter rays, white ruffled edge. **Variegated** medium green, white and cream, heart-shaped. **Standard**

‘RS-Popurri’ (11092) 05/24/2018 (S. Repkina) Semidouble-double light pink and white large frilled star/blue-fuchsia fantasy. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

‘RS-Rosinka’ (11093) 05/24/2018 (S. Repkina) Single-semidouble white wavy large star/blue patches. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

‘RS-Rozhdenie Zari’ (11094) 05/24/2018 (S. Repkina) Semidouble light pink large wavy star/raspberry sparkle edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

‘RS-Sin’orita’ (11095) 05/24/2018 (S. Repkina) Double red large ruffled star/variable white edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

‘RS-Sirena’ (11096) 05/24/2018 (S. Repkina) Single-semidouble large white wavy star/blue patches. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

‘RS-Sneg v Aprele’ (11097) 05/24/2018 (S. Repkina) Double white large ruffled star/blue markings, variable light green outer petals. Medium green, ruffled. **Standard**

‘RS-Soblazn’ (11098) 05/24/2018 (S. Repkina) Semidouble-double white large ruffled star/lavender-pink patches. Medium-dark green, quilted. **Standard**

‘RS-Tsezar’ (11099) 05/24/2018 (S. Repkina) Double white and purple large wavy star. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

‘RS-Utonchennyi Vkus’ (11100) 05/24/2018 (S. Repkina) Single-semidouble white large ruffled star/light pink-coral patches. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

'RS-Zaria Zarianitsa' (11101) 05/24/2018
(S. Repkina) Single-semidouble pink wavy star/
raspberry sparkle edge. **Variegated** medium green,
cream and pink, plain. **Standard**

'RS-Zhabo' (11102) 05/24/2018 (S. Repkina)
Double gray-lavender-blue star/green ruffled edge.
Dark green, ruffled. **Standard**

'RS-Zolotoe Runo' (11103) 05/24/2018
(S. Repkina) Semidouble pink two-tone star/white
eye, darker tips, green ruffled edge. Medium green,
plain. **Standard**

'RS-Zolotoi Drakon' (11104) 05/24/2018
(S. Repkina) Semidouble-double white large ruffled
star/yellow eye and rays. Medium green, plain.
Standard

REGISTRATION CHANGE

The following have been changed by the Plant
Registration Committee:

'LE-Adzhio' (10251) Change name to LE-
Adazhio (add 'a').



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Aca's Libbie

Exhibited by: Debbie McInnis

Hybridized by: J. Brownlie

Semiminiature (CA)

Let's Support AVSA Commercial Members

Cindi Nofziger

I just got back from my mailbox with the May/June issue of the *African Violet Magazine* clutched in my hot little hand and could hardly wait to sit down and read it. One of the first articles in the issue was a contest entry on buying African violets on eBay.

I have purchased plants in past years on eBay, so I certainly understand and appreciate the article. However, I want to remind our members that many of our AVSA Commercial Members hybridize and grow African violets year after year so we hobbyists can enjoy these plants. I doubt whether the buying public realizes what a struggle it is for these commercial businesses to compete with sellers on eBay and similar sites.

A Few Cautions

I realize bidding wars on eBay can become addictive, but I have seen some plants sell for exorbitant prices and have wished I could send the bidders an email letting them know that they probably can get the same (or superior) plant that might cost them \$40 or more in an eBay auction from a commercial grower for \$8!

When you purchase plants from individuals online, are you as comfortable knowing the plants are disease free as you are when you buy from AVSA-known, established sellers? Would you or the seller recognize whether the plants have Impatiens necrotic spot virus (INSV), cyclamen mites or soil mealybugs? Some sellers won't recognize the signs of pests or diseases if they are newer growers, but our regular Commercial Members would be more likely to recognize the signs. Buying from an unknown seller online really can be a "buyer beware" decision.

Why Buy From AVSA Commercial Members

Many of our Commercial Members are among our biggest hybridizers and have been growing and selling for many years; this is their livelihood, not their hobby. Unfortunately, these quality vendors are going to be a dying breed if we do not continue to support them. Where would AVSA be without Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, The Violet Barn, Travis Violets and Buckeye Violets, to name a few?

The article mentioned an instance in which the writer purchased plants from a commercial seller and the plants had soil mealybugs. Unfortunately,

getting pests can happen to any grower, whether commercial or hobbyist. However, I have never known any commercial grower who deliberately sold plants with pests. I also have purchased plants that were shipped and not received in good condition because of weather-related issues. I immediately called and spoke with

the commercial seller, who shipped replacement plants to me at no cost. I didn't have to write emails back and forth, waiting for the issue to be resolved. I don't believe most buyers get a Commercial Member level of service when buying on eBay.

So, the next time you see a plant or plants on eBay you can't live without, try going to the AVSA website and checking to see whether any of our Commercial Members carry that special plant you must have and choose to buy from these professionals first. You might even save money!

Finally, let's remember how our Commercial Members support us. Many vendors contribute to our conventions and advertise in our magazine. Our Commercial Members are critical to AVSA and all its members.

Many of our
Commercial
Members ... have
been growing
and selling for
many years.

Moving: Survival of the Fittest Plants

Paul Kroll - Lancaster, NY

In my formative years I was admonished to avoid four-letter words. I have complied with what I was taught for the most part, but recently discovered another four-letter word I had not used in many years: M-O-V-E. My wife, Judy, and I had put our application in at a continuing care facility about three years ago. There was only one apartment we wanted on the campus in the independent living area. We waited those three years so we could get an apartment in the pet wing and take our two cats with us. The apartment we wanted became available in May or June, so we began to clean things out when we got the call in early February.

Every week from that time on, I set many contractor bags out for the weekly trash pickup. We donated items, gave things away and had an auctioneer take an entire truckload of "stuff" to be sold. It still took weeks and weeks to clear everything out after 41 years in the same house!

We rented a one-ton dumpster and cleaned out the attic. The week after it was picked up, we got a bill for \$36 because we had exceeded the one-ton limit! I must clarify that our house was not cluttered, but we had lots of "stuff" that we didn't realize we had accumulated.

Most Important: The Plants

What, you are asking yourself, does this have to do with plants? Well, the downsizing operation included my plants, of course. I had a plant room in the basement of the house with seven stands and a total of 23 shelves. My new plant room/den/office has only three plant stands and a total of 10 shelves, so this was quite the downsizing effort!

The plants were the very last belongings to move from the house to the new apartment home. After nearly 40 years of driving a pickup truck, I had downsized to a small van, so I had to wait for a friend with an open truck to haul the three stands

to their new location. Once the stands were in, set up and ready, I could move the plants in and settle them. Nearly a week passed between the time we dismantled the stands and the time we could move the plants themselves. Meanwhile, my plants sat on the basement floor in the dark for more than five days!

I had not paid much attention to my plants between February and April when we moved. I watered and fertilized them as I normally do, but none had been repotted or groomed, etc. As a result of this neglect, I was able to muster only two gesneriads to enter in the AVSA-AVSC convention show in Buffalo. Here was a convention in my own backyard and I couldn't even bring many entries! Each won a blue ribbon, one a best in class. Both were donated to the auction and made some money for AVSA. I had made reservations to show designs as well, but pulled them all ahead of time so that others could have those spots. No regrets!

The Losses

Believe it or not, I lost only a very few plants: two episcias, and a few rhizomatous and tuberous plants that had gone dormant and I overwatered their pots. I was totally amazed at the survivability of my African violets and other gesneriads. They looked like rotten teeth, mind you, but most of them survived and are now prospering in their new home. They, like us, are enjoying air conditioning that we never had before. It is paradise in this hot, humid summer!

So many of my plant friends have asked me about the move and the sale of the house, etc., that I felt compelled to write an article about it. The lesson learned, even after more than 60 years of growing is this: the plants are much more resilient and hardy than we realize. Enjoy them and give them their due credit!

From Magazines Past

*An African violet is a bridge to establish rapport
between strangers.
It is a means of communication where there is no
tongue.
It is a chord of music where there is no sound.
It is a joyous light from yesterday rekindled today.
It is a happy treat tomorrow.*

- Anonymous, AVM December 1992

This quote from a 1992 issue of *African Violet Magazine* shows no matter whether the look, size, color or editor of AVM changes, one truth remains: African violet growers are passionate about their plants.

New – and past – articles in AVM are there to inform and inspire our readers. The AVSA website's magazine page has an index of articles dating to

1947, and photos back to 1998, so you can search for topics and violets. In addition, the AVSA site soon will provide a link to the Biodiversity Heritage Library, which is making digital copies of entire issues as part of their effort to give open access to historical biodiversity collections – and at no cost to AVSA. When complete, you can access indices and scanned issues from volume 1 in 1947 through three years prior to the current year.

Of course, having the paper copy of past issues is the best – for the photos alone! But if you can't remember which issue a helpful article was in, search the AVSA for articles and photos. And if you find you loaned out a past issue and would like another copy, look in the AVSA Store to see if the single issue is available for purchase.

Anne & Frank Tinari Endowment Fund

Janet Riemer • 256 Pennington-Harbourton Rd. • Pennington, NJ 08534
May and June 2018 • Total this period: \$865.00



Geneva – \$100-\$499

Meredith Hall
Thimble Island African Violet Society
In memory of John Cook
Patti Freed
In memory of Robert and Marjorie Harrington
Terri L. Post
In memory of Mary Jo Bradley



Multicolor – \$50-\$99

Linda Michael Knox
In memory of Janice Carr
Columbus African Society
In memory of Richard Carr
Richmond African Violet Society
*In lieu of judges' expenses for Laurene Jones,
Linda Abplanalp, Pat Knight, Sue Hoffmann,
Vicki Carr, Barbara Stewart*
Black Oak Violets
Spring Branch African Violet Club
In memory of Rhona Thurman
Alpha African Violet Society
In memory of Janice Goode



Two-Tone – \$25-\$49

Oshkosh Violet Society
Anne M. Nicholas
Billings Bloomers African Violet Society
In memory of Fay Marsh
African Violet Society of Burlington County (NJ)
*In lieu of judges' expenses for Barbara Jones,
Joan Santino, Susan Hanna, Tim Ferguson,
Bob Kurzinski, Janet Riemer*
Carol J. Brown
*In memory of Al Russum, husband of
Fran Russum*
Oshkosh Violet Society
In memory of John Cook



Thumbprint – Under \$25

Patricia Miklica
April Van Ness
Bettye Williams
Claire Ulanoff
Joy Rohan

Coming Events

September 21-22 – Texas

Dallas Metro African Violet Fall Sale
North Haven Gardens
7700 Northaven Rd.
Dallas, TX 75230
Friday, September 21: 10 am to 4 pm
Saturday, September 22: 10 am to 4 pm
Many varieties of African violets and
other gesneriads
Two daily workshops on care of
African violets and gesneriads:
11 am and 2 pm
Public invited at no charge
Meredith Hall: (254) 896-2397
Bill Foster: (972) 279-5993
Jan Davidson: chiefriend@aol.com, or
Sylvia Leeds: roseotx@gmail.com

September 28-29 – Iowa

Cedar Valley African Violet Club
African Violet Display & Sale
Crossroads Mall
2060 Crossroads Blvd.
Waterloo, Iowa 50702
Friday, Sept 28: 10 am - 8 pm
Saturday, Sept 29: 9 am - 4 pm
Carol Magoon: cmagoon@heartofiowa.net
(641) 751-7751

October 5-6 – Florida

African Violet Council of Florida Annual Show
Violet Vibes in the Fabulous 50s
Hilton Garden Inn
3839 Don Emerson Dr.
Lakeland, FL 33811
(863) 647-0066
Friday, October 5:
Sales room open 10 am - 6 pm
Show room open noon - 6 pm
Saturday, October 6:
Show and sales rooms open 9 am - 3 pm
Free and open to the public
Thad Scaggs: (352) 345-5271
www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.club
Facebook: Search AVCFL

October 6 – Michigan

Michigan State African Violet Society
Display & Sale
African Violets, Strels and other Gesneriads
Matthaei Botanical Gardens - Room #125
1800 Dixboro Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
Saturday, October 6:
10 am - 4 pm
Lynn Allen: LynnAllen0413@comcast.net

October 6 – Washington

Saintpaulia Society of Tacoma
63rd Judged Show and Sale
Watson's Nursery
6211 Pioneer Way East
Puyallup, Washington
10 am to 3 pm
Cathleen Graves: (253) 535 5973
rhythmslave@harbornet.com

October 12-13 – Oklahoma

Missouri Valley African Violet Council
Annual Business Meeting and AV Show
Wyndham Tulsa Hotel & Resorts
10918 E. 41st St.
Tulsa, OK 74146
Friday, October 12:
Setup and Judging
Saturday, October 13:
9 am to 4 pm
Sale room open and 2 presentations on Saturday
Judith Carter: judithmcarter@valornet.com or
(918) 355-8020

October 13 – Pennsylvania

African Violet Society of Philadelphia
Annual Judged Show/Plant Sale
Cathedral Village Retirement Community
600 E. Cathedral Road
Philadelphia, PA 19128
Saturday, October 13: 11 am - 4 pm
Admission free
More information:
www.phillyviolets.org or call (610) 272-6961

October 27 – Oregon

Portland African Violet Society
African Violet Show and Sale
Tabor Methodist Church
6161 SE Stark St.
Portland, OR 97215
10 am – 2:30 pm
Cindi Nofziger: ccnofziger@comcast.net

October 27 – Texas

First Austin African Violet Society
Fall Plant Sale
Austin Area Garden Center
Zilker Botanical Garden
2220 Barton Springs Rd.
Austin, TX 78746
Saturday, October 27:
10 am - 4 pm
Entry fee to Zilker Botanical Garden is
\$1-children 3-12 and seniors 62+;
\$2-adults 13-61; \$3-nonresidents
Susan Kautz: gizzmo@austin.rr.com
(512) 365-1818

November 1-3 – Texas

Lone Star African Violet Council (LSAVC)
2018 Convention
Annual Convention, Judged Show and Sale
“Violets Without Borders”
Inn of the Hills Resort & Conference Center
1001 Junction Hwy.
Kerrville, TX 78028
Thursday, November 1:
Commercial Sales room open - noon - 4:30 pm
Friday, November 2:
9 am - 4:30 pm; Show Room open 2 pm - 4:30 pm
Saturday, November 3: 10 am - 4:30 pm;
Show room open 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Susan Kautz: gizzmo@austin.rr.com
(512) 365-1818; www.lsavc.org

November 3-4 – Wisconsin

Wisconsin Council of AVCs
Annual Judged Show & Sale
St. Jude the Apostle Church Hall
531 Knapp St.
Oshkosh, WI 54902
Saturday, Nov 3: 10 am - 4 pm
Sunday, Nov 4: 11 am - 3 pm
Kevin Degner: (920) 426-3764



AVM Deadlines (Articles, Columns, Coming Events):

January/February issue: November 1
March/April issue: January 1
May/June issue: March 1
July/August issue: May 1
September/October issue: July 1
November/December issue: September 1

A Family Portrait

By Mel Grice

2019 Crosswind Ct. • Englewood, OH

Email: melsgrice@earthlink.net

Kohleria 'Bud's Strawberry Shortcake' is an example of one of my favorite gesneriads. The dark green/black foliage is attractive - and when paired with the bold, bright pink hairy corolla and the broad, outward facing white face spotted with pink, the plant makes a strong statement. Brandon Erikson from Nebraska created this floriferous hybrid. *Kohleria* 'Emily Roberts' x *K.* 'Peridots Kitlope' is the parentage.



watered. If excess drying occurs too early in the growth cycle, the plants might go dormant prematurely without producing any rhizomes for next year. That is why I try to have two or more pots of a variety growing so I won't lose the variety if I occasionally forget to water a tray of plants. I try to place each pot in a different part of my plant room so they are watered on different days.

Most kohlerias do not have a required dormancy period like some gesneriads. If pruned back to the soil level after flowering, kohlerias usually will sprout again immediately if they have made new scaly rhizomes. Thus, they can be kept going throughout the year with the proper light and warmth levels.

Rhizome Structure

Kohlerias have rhizomatous root structures. Rhizomes are one of the three root structures found in gesneriads, the other two being fibrous only and tuberous. Rhizomes are modified stems that grow perpendicularly to the force of gravity. Scaly rhizomes are produced under and above the soil, coming from leaf axils when conditions are favorable. Scaly rhizomes often resemble pine cones and help the plants remain alive during the dry season in the wild. The rhizomes perform the same function as a tuber or bulb so **do not discard** the pot if the plant looks dead - it is only resting or dormant.

Blooming

The spectacular plant shown on the next page was exhibited by Brandon Erikson at the Gesneriad Society Flower Show this summer in Framingham, Mass. He describes it as "relatively short growing for the species. Frequent branching from initial leaf nodes helps to fill the plant out into a pleasant shaped mound with no manipulation. Floriferous, with the bloom cycle happening all at once up and down the stems. Blooms last one to two weeks with relatively little "dropping."

Propagation

Kohleria propagation is by stem cuttings in water or mix. Stem cuttings root very quickly, sometimes within days. Rhizomes can be planted whole, in pieces, or by removing individual scales and planting them. Bear in mind that some kohlerias are shy rhizome producers, so don't assume that a pot will be full of rhizomes when you want to propagate. Always take some stem cuttings to be sure.

Production and Care

A crucial factor in rhizome production is keeping the plants consistently well fed and

The bloom cycle of *K.* 'Bud's Strawberry Shortcake' can last up to three months from initial buds opening to when the plant begins to look worn. Peak bloom is usually around the third week in the cycle and lasts easily through the fifth week. Erikson says the plant in the photo was grown on the top and middle shelves under regular T8 (4) bulbs at a height of 16 inches.





Photo Credit: Mel Grice

Kohleria 'Bud's Strawberry Shortcake'

Gesneriad Society Flower Show, 2018

Exhibited by: Brandon Erikson

Hybridized by: B. Erikson

AVSA Convention and Show

By Anne Nicholas

Houston: Top Travel Destination

It is easy to see why Houston has become a top vacation option. The city has a wonderful mix of world-class arts, booming businesses, pro sports and award-winning cuisine. Houston has landed on several "best of" lists, including Travel and Leisure and an index of the most affordable U.S. vacation destinations.

Dining

Houston, the fourth-largest city in the United States, is billed as the "Culinary Capital of the South." Because of its size and diverse population, cutting-edge chefs have made their home in the city and serve innovative cuisine that will appeal to any taste. Restaurants with plenty of price ranges abound and are easily discovered by word of mouth or by searching online. Restaurants close to our convention hotel, the Houston Marriott Westchase, can be accessed on www.opentable.com.



Culinary tour at Houston's Nam Gang Restaurant. Courtesy of Visit Houston and Shannon O'Hara.

Arts

Downtown Houston has a thriving professional arts scene. Houston is one of only five cities in the United States that can make this boast, with resident companies in ballet, opera, symphony and theater. If you love these arts, look ahead to next year's calendar for performances.



The Butterfly Center at Houston's Museum of Natural Science. Courtesy of Visit Houston.

Museums

The Museum District of Houston is the largest in Texas, and a rival to any in the world. And it is only a 20- to 25-minute drive from our hotel. Inside this incredible museum district are 19 museums within walking distance of each other. Some of the awesome museums include: Buffalo Soldiers National Museum, Contemporary Arts Museum, Czech Center Museum, Holocaust Museum, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, Museum of Natural Science, Museum of Fine Arts, and the Houston Zoo, plus many more. Each museum is unique and awe-inspiring. The Museum of Natural Science includes an IMAX theater, planetarium and butterfly center. The zoo has a multimillion-dollar African forest exhibit. Take a look at www.houmuse.org for more information about the district.

Rockets

Twenty-five companies on the Fortune 500 list call Houston, the Energy Capital of the World, home. Aeronautic research remains the focus of the NASA headquarters and NASA tours are a top attraction. Needless to say, our tours for the AVSA convention will be fantastic!!!!

Get ready for some Violet Fun in the Texas Sun and start planning for the 2019 AVSA Convention and Show, May 26 through June 2.

Put some *Violet Fun* in 2019!!



AVSA Convention & Show

May 26 - June 2, 2019

Houston Marriott Westchase

Violet Fun in Houston, Texas

Houston is a top vacation option for its affordability,
outstanding restaurants, museums, science,
arts, parks - and even art in parks!

Plan now to *Have Fun in the Texas Sun* in Houston, Texas

"And the winners are ..." 434 Plumwood Way • Fairview, TX 75069

By Mary Corondan

Email: mcorondan@yahoo.com

AVC OF BURLINGTON COUNTY, NJ – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler, Buckeye Cherry Topping, Buckeye Festive Floozie; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Red, Orchard's Bumble Magnet, Jolly Orchid; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Foxwood Trail; Best Standard: Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler; Best Semiminiature: Jolly Andrea; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sandy Skalski**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Too Shameless, Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler, Buckeye Scrumptious; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Argyle Socks, Alexis' Kisses, Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Ray Burnside**. Best AVSA Species Collection: *S. 5h* clone Kacharoroni, *S. 5h* clone *magungensis*, *S. 5h* clone *tongwensis*; Best Species: *S. 5h* clone *tongwensis*; Best Gesneriad: *Primulina linearifolia*; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Susan Arnao**.

AVC OF GREATER ATLANTA, GA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lucien Croteau, Buckeye Scrumptious, Picasso; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Dots, **Mark Jackson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cajun's Lil Joy, Cajun's Lil Love, Rob's Argyle Socks; Best in Show: Tina's April Fantasy; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Argyle Socks, **Sue Myers**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'UA Solar Eclipse'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kathy Spissman**. Best Design, **Phillis Hinkle**.

AVC OF MORRIS COUNTY, NJ – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Jersey Blue Moonlight, Jersey Snow Drops, Jersey Snow Flakes; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jolly Pepper, Ness' Mini Sota, Rob's Hand Puppet; Best in Show/Best Species: *S. ionanthus* Mather; Best Standard: Optimara EverPraise; Best Semiminiature: Jolly Pepper; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bob Kurzynski**. Best Trailer: Jersey Starlight Trail, **Judy Brar**. Best



Gesneriad: *Sinningia bullata*, **Jill Fisher**. Best Design, **Karyn Cichocki**. Design Sweepstakes, **Emilia Rykowski**.

AVGS OF SYRACUSE, NY – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wrangler's Dixie Celebration, Chicago Flair, Frozen in Time; Best Standard: Wrangler's Dixie Celebration, **Ann Kelly**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Heartbreak Kid, Ness' Sheer Peach, Mac's Misty Meadow; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Galiwinku; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Haru No Mizu'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Donna Coleman**. Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt, **Mary Ryan**. Best Miniature: Jolly Blue Clouds; Best Species: *S. 5cl* clone Sigi Falls, **Shirley Mills**. Best Design, **Lee Hoke**. Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Leonard**.

AVS OF MINNESOTA, MN – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Pink Philly, Rebel's Rose Bud, The Alps; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Mini Sota, Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Rob's Lucky Stroke; Best Species Collection: *S. 5f* clone *orbicularis*, *S. 5h* clone *rupicolus* Mather No. 5, *S. shumensis*; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rocky Mountain Trail; Best Miniature: Kathy's Gleeful Elf; Best Species: *S. 5f* clone *orbicularis*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kathy Lahti**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jolly Orchid, Jolly Ruby, Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Design Sweepstakes, **Jude Neumann**. Best Standard: Ma's Poltergeist, **Gail Podany**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Prudence', **Janice O'Neil**. Best Design, **Barb Werness**.

AVS OF SAN FRANCISCO, CA – Winners: Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Jolly Frills, **Byron Borck**. Best Standard: Suncoast Peppermint Kathy; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best Species: *S. ionantha* subsp. *pendula kizarae*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Madeline Taube**. Best Trailer: Sushi, **Heather Morgan**. Best

Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* Spec., **Fred Grafelman**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Vera Carlson**.

AVS OF SPRINGFIELD, PA – Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Boo Man, Honky Tonk Blues, Ness' Satin Rose; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Amethyst; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Joan Santino**. Best Species Collection: *S. clone rupicola*, *S. clone ionantha* subsp. *ionantha* var. *ionantha*, *S. clone magungensis*; Best in Show/Best Species: *S. clone ionantha* subsp. *ionantha* var. *ionantha*; Best Miniature: Pink Dove; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Jones**. Best Standard: Rebel's Night Breezes, **Linda Corcoran**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Erika Geimonen**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Silver Sheen', **Donna Biggs**.

ALBUQUERQUE AVC, NM – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Jersey Snow Flakes, K's Slingshot, K's Sangria Splash; Best Standard: Jersey Snow Flakes, **Kathy Hajner**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Wagga Wagga, Rob's Miriwinni, Rob's Humpty Doo; Best Semiminiature: Optimara Little Hopi II; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Lona Pidanick**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Checkerboard', **JoEllen Bowden**. Best Design, **Carol Skaggs**.

ANNAPOLIS VALLEY AVS, NOVA SCOTIA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Silk 'n' Lace, Cajun's Flamboyant Mistress, Von's Moon Shadows; Best in Show/ Best Miniature: Sport of Morgan's Junior Mint, Best Standard: Cajun's Flamboyant Mistress; Best Semiminiature: Ode to Grace; **Anne Brown**. Best Species Collection: *S. 5b clone confusa* Mather E, *S. 5h clone rupicolus*, *S. 5h clone Cha Simba*, **Debra Carey**. Best Trailer: Pixie Blue; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Frances Shilliday**. Best Species: *S. 3 clone shumensis*, **Dixie Cress**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Cleopatra', **Valerie Despres**. Design Sweepstakes, **Patricia Vaison**.

BAY STATE AVS, MA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Cajun's Beautiful Oblivion, Cajun's Zydeco, Cajun's Coujon, **Chris Paiva**. Best Species Collection: *S. 5i clone velutinus*, *S. 5c1 clone ionanthus*, *S. brevipilosus*; Best Species: *S. 5i clone velutinus*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Cynthia Brooks**. Best Standard: Optimara

Dominica; Best Semiminiature: Spring Promise, **Sue Stafford**. Best Miniature: Joly Gala, **Eleanor MacIver**. Best Design, **Joan Russo**. Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara MacPhee**.

BURBANK AND MONTROSE AV SOCIETIES, CA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara EverSpecial, Optimara EverGlory, Optimara myJoy; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Jitterbug, Windsome, Optimara Little Amethyst; Best Miniature: Rob's Jitterbug; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gay Wilson**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: B-Man's Etna, Buckeye Cherry Freckles, Rhapsodie JoAnn, **John Hersey**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Design, **Luis Pineda**. Best Trailer: Stickey Springtrail, **Kathy Dupree**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpella* 'Butter Blues', **Hanna Olson**.

CAPITAL DISTRICT AVS, NY – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kaylih Marie, Optimara Atlanta II, Optimara Harlequin; Best in Show/Best Standard: Optimara Atlanta II; Best Semiminiature: Thunder Surprise; Best Miniature: Jolly Gala; Best Species: *S. ionantha* subsp. *grandifolia* No. 237; Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Freckles'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Margaret Califano**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Georgia, Ian-Minuet, Rebel's Splatter Kake, **Patti Freed**. Best Species Collection: *S. brevipilosa*, *S. 5b clone confusa*, *S. 5c1 clone House of Amani*, **Heidi Dillenbeck**. Best Trailer: Pixie Pink, **Esther Mason**. Design Sweepstakes, **Maggie Schnurr**.

CENTRAL FLORIDA AVS, FL – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Nostalgia, Fisherman's Paradise, Mindi Brooke; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rolling Pink Cloudburst; Best Semiminiature: Lyon's Little Sweetheart; Best Miniature: Grape Treat; Best Species: *S. clone Cha Simba*; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Elvie Blakely**. Best Standard: Cristabel, **Donna Oros**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia bullata*, **Robert Cameron**.

CINNCINATI AVS AND AVS OF DAYTON, OH – Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Petite Blarney, Jolly Orchid, Jolly Gala; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boondoggle, **Vicki Ferguson**.

Best Standard: Buckeye Seductress, **Linda Lloyd**. Best Miniature: Mac's Kismet's Knight; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia pusilla*, **Cathy Willis**. Best Trailer: Tinari's Royal Blue Trailer, **Mel Grice**.

COLUMBUS AVS, OH – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Evening Splendor, Omaha Thunder, Silent Prayer; Best in Show/Best Standard: Silent Prayer; Best Miniature: Dolores' Royal Prince; Best Trailer: Rob's Humpty Doo; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mary Martin**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Red Tiger, Rob's Inner Orbit, Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, **Julie Jones**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Canterbury Surprise', **Sherrie Zimmerman**. Best Species: *S. rupicola* clone Cha Simba, **Nancy Carr**. Best Design, **Joyce Matheny**. Design Sweepstakes, **Gary Saunders**.

DIXIE AVS, AL – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler, Buckeye Nostalgia, Buckeye Country Gal; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Calypso Beat, Rob's Whodunit, Thunder Surprise; Best in Show/Best Standard: Buckeye Exotic Dancer; Best Semiminiature: Thunder Surprise; Best Species: *S. 5c1* clone *tongwensis*, **Kurt Jablonski**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Jersey Snow Flakes, Cajun's Blue Bayou, Cajun's Dixie Pride; Best Miniature: Jolly Orchid, **Stephanie Newman**. Best Trailer: Harmony's Gundartoo; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bobbie Johanson**. Best Gesneriad: *Primulina* 'Deco'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Mary Lou Harden**.

FIRST AUSTIN AVS, TX – Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dean's Rosalie, Jolly Orchid, Persian Prince; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Inner Orbit; Best Standard: Anastasia; Best Miniature: Jolly Orchid; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Penny Smith-Kerker**. Best Trailer: Pixie Blue, **Marjorie Bullard**. Best Species: *S. 5b* clone *confusa*; Best Gesneriad: *Primulina bipinnatifida*, **Dolores Gibbs**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Glenda Williams**.

ILLINOIS AVS, IL – Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Persian Prince, Precious Red, Shirl's Red Sky; Best Miniature: Persian Prince, **Timothy Legant**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Ian-Minuet, **Irina Tsybulsai**. Best Semiminiature:

Rob's Fuddy Duddy, **Andrea Worrell**. Best Trailer: Cajun's McKenna Trail, **Adrienne Rieck**. Best Species: *S. 5b* clone *confusa*, **Carol Brown**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Fred's Yellow Ice', **Judi DuPont**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Lana Gernady**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Natalie Vazquez**.

MAGIC KNIGHT AVS, TX – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Northern Beauty, Cajun's Fair Maiden, Cajun's Pink Crepe Paper; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Kitten Caboodle, Jolly Pepper, Ness' Satin Rose; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Jolly Andrea; Best Standard: Northern Beauty; Best Trailer: Cajun's McKenna Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Dale Parker**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jolly Treasure, Rob's Antique Rose, Lucky Ladybug; Best Miniature: Jolly Joy, **Ken Froboese**. Best Species: *S. 5c2* clone *diplotrichus* Punter #7; Best Gesneriad: *Kohleria hirsuta*, **Dorchas Brashear**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Irene Harney**.

MEMPHIS AVS, TN – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Blue Dragon, Cajun's Beautiful Oblivion, Cajun's Sundowners; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jolly Mars, Jolly Orchid, Rob's Gum Bubble; Best in Show/Best Standard: Cajun's Sundowners; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best Miniature: Honey Blue Ace; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Brenda Brasfield**. Best Trailer: Flashy Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Primulina* 'Nimbus', **Beth Baker**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Geneva Stagg**.

METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS AV COUNCIL, MO – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Smooch Me, Rhapsodie Clementine, Victorian Parasol; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Linda Sumski**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Favorite Child, Cajun's Fair Maiden; Picasso; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Fran Russom**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Outer Orbit, Rob's Slap Happy, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best in Show/Best Standard: Cajun's Slow Dance; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Outer Orbit; Best Miniature: Rob's Chilly Willy; Best Species: *S. ionanthus* ssp. *ionanthus* v. *ionanthus*, **Sue Melson**. Best Trailer: Rob's Galiwinku, **Ralph Olliges**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Peachy Propeller', **Bonnie Russom**.

MOONLIGHT AV AND GESNERIAD SOCIETY, TX – Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jolly Orchid, Precious Red, Jolly Cupid; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Gundaroo; Best Standard: Carolina Elegant Affair Sport; Best Semiminiature: Jolly Mischief; Best Miniature: Jolly Orchid; Best Species: *S. 5b* clone *confusa* Mather E; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Heartland's White Gold', **Margery Anderson-Clive**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, Rob's Bad Bunny, Jitterbug Anne's Delight; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Barbara Kelly**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Bonnie Harris**.

NAUGATONIC AVS, CT – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Alabama II, Optimara Houston, Optimara Chagall; Best in Show/Best Standard; Optimara Houston, **Albert Rourke**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara California, Optimara Chico, Optimara Hawaii; Best Semiminiature: Kentucky Gooseberries; Best Miniature: Honey Blue Angel; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Show Stopper; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Tar Jar's Summer Sunshine'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Edna Rourke**.

NEW YORK STATE AVS, NY – Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cupid's Jewel, Jersey Sugar Plums, Rob's Pewter Bells, **Carolyn Klein**. Best in Show/Best Species: *S. 3* clone *shumensis* Mather EE; Best Miniature: Mac's Momentary Meltdown, **Beverley Williams**.

Best Standard: Amethyst; Best Trailer: Rob's Gundaroo, **Margaret Califano**. Best Semiminiature: Morgan's Sophronia, **Julie Thompson**. Best Gesneriad: *Eucodonia* 'Adele', **Eileen McGrath**. Best Design, **Karen Cichocki**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Donna Coleman**. Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Festenstein**.

OSHKOSH AVS, WI – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ma's Wicked Witch, Cajun's Fair Maiden, Jersey Snow Flakes; 2nd Best Mini/Semi Collection: Jersey Blue Ice, Shy Blue, Jazz Bouquet; Best Miniature: Jolly Blue Clouds; Best Trailer: Deer Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Spin Art'; Best Species: *S. 5c1* clone *ionanthus*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kevin Degner**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jolly

Fire, Cool Blue, Rob's What Not; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Jolly Fire, **Betsy Fox**. Best Design, **Mary Shellman**. Design Sweepstakes, **Doug Kindschuh**.

OTTAWA AVS, ONTARIO – Winners: Best Species Collection: *S. 5c1* clone *tongwensis* Uppsala 3397, *S. 5h* clone *velutinus*, *S. 3* clone *shumensis*, **Eileen McGrath**. 2nd Best Species Collection: *S. 5b* clone *grotei* Silvert, *S. 5b* clone *magungensis*, *S. 5b* clone *grotei* van Someren; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Antique Rose; Best Standard: Frosted Whisper; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Crystal, **Diane Page**. Best Trailer: Shina; Best Species: *S. 5c2* clone *diplotrichus* Parker, **Pierre Laforest**. Best Gesneriad: *Primulina ophiopogoides*, **Karen Horner**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Sandy Black**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Madeline Kalinowski**.

RICHMOND AVS, VA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Annabelle, Jersey Snow Flakes, Cajun's Freckleface Kid, **Barbara Greenawalt**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Cajun's Royal Knockout, Cajun's Hot Expectations, Cajun's Queen Lace; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Mesmerizing Pink; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Barbara Koski**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Optimara Little Ottawa, White Dew, **David Dick**. Best Miniature: Rob's Bad Bunny, **Sharon Long**. Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo, **Kathryn Hedgepeth**. Best Species: *S. 5b* clone *confusa*; Best Design, **Bill Schmidt**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Blueberry Butterflies', **Nell Reese**. Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Stewart**.

SHO-ME AVC, MO – Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Pogo Stock, Rob's Ooey Gooy, Eternal Orbit; Best in Show/Best Standard: Cajun's Slow Dance; Best Semiminiature: Eternal Orbit; Best Miniature: Imp's Fairy Berry; Best Trailer: Pink Star Lou; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lynn Canning**. Best Gesneriad: *Primulina* 'Moonlight', **Wilma Wolverton**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Sharon Vantuyl**.

STAMPEDE CITY AVS, ALBERTA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Aca's Coral Beauty, Picasso, Fisher's Leone; Best Standard: B-Man's Caltanissetta; Best Miniature: Rob's Jitterbug, **Maureen Tkachuk**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi

Collection: Aca's Pink Pet, Optimara Rose Quartz, Imp's Angel Wings; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Norma Kunzel**. Best in Show/Best Species: *S. rupicola* clone Robertson, **Betty Fenerty**. Best Semiminiature: Morgan's Wayne Man, **Jordan Fenerty**. Best Trailer: Skart Litet Moln; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Solstice', **Winston Goretsky**. Best Design, **Laurel Goetsky**. Design Sweepstakes, **Maida den Oudsten**.

TIDEWATER AVS, VA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ma's Debutante, Ma's Second Thoughts, Mindi Brooke; Best in Show/Best Standard: Heaven's A-calling, **Linda Stinnette**. Best Semiminiature: N-Morskoi Priboi, **Pat Knight**. Best Miniature: Jolly Blue Clouds; Best Species: *S. diplotricha* Parker; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Suomi'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Norma Griswold**. Design Sweepstakes, **Amanda Banks**.

TORONTO AV AND GESNERIAD SOCIETY, ONTARIO – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bob Serbin, Cajun's Flamboyant Mistress, Smooch Me; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Calypso Beat, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best Standard: Bob Serbin; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Calypso Beat, **Brett Flewelling**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection:

Buckeye Nostalgia, K's Lilac Infusion, Buckeye My Oh My, **Bruce Williams**. Best Species Collection: *S. 5b* clone *grotei* van Someren, *S. 5f* clone *orbicularis*, *S. 5h* clone Cha Simba; Best Species: *S. 5b* clone *grotei* van Someren, **Beverley Williams**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Baby Brian, **Bill Price**. Best Miniature: Planet Kid, **Diane Page**. Best Design, **Steven Kerr**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Alla Kotova**. Design Sweepstakes, **Jackie Mills**.

TUCSON AVS, AZ – Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Teen Thunder, Dolores' Dazzler, Little Pro; Best Miniature: Precious Red; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Judy Soop**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Outer Orbit; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Best Species: *S. 5c1* clone *ionanthus*, **Kathy Bell**. Best Standard: Day 'N' Night, **Judy Millstone**. Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Tropicana', **Ken McGowan**.

WINDSOR AVS, CT – Winners: Best in Show/Best Standard: Rebel's Rhubarb Frost, **Debra Vallides**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Charlotte Howson**. Best Miniature: Rob's Chilly Willy, **Doreen Lay**. Best Trailer: Rob's Galiwinku; Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Tropicana'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Cindy Fagan**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Janice Boyko**.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND

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Donations received from June 1, 2018 – June 30, 2018 • **Total \$144.00**



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Judges' Expenses*



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Miniature

Shows and Judges

Bill Foster - Chair

Mary Corondan - Vice Chair

Winston Goretsky - Handbook Chair

What a great convention it was in Buffalo! Many thanks to Judy Niemira, Julie Thompson, Deb Donaldson, Bev Williams and their committees for a job well done.

Handbook Updates

The Shows and Judges Committee met and discussed several items. *The updates in the AVSA Handbook will take effect October 2, 2018*, because of those who will be completing their senior exams by October 1. Number 6 below is the only exception to this date. The **Handbook** updates will be as follows:

1. Insert on page 48, AVSA Convention. Show Awards-Amateur Horticulture, "11. A cash award and rosette for Second Best New Cultivar" and "12. A cash award and rosette for Third Best New Cultivar." Renumber the previous 11-19 to 13-21.
2. Revise page 52 under Standard African Violets, Condition, "Points: deduct up to three points for each instance: standard plant **8 inches or less** in diameter."
3. The next update will be on page 53. Under "Quantity of bloom: A small standard plant **over 8"** to 10" in diameter with 10 to 15 blossoms could receive the full amount of points under quantity of bloom."
4. There are a series of updates for pages 60-61 under Description of Species. Below are the changes to page 60:
 - a. insert *S. afroviola* (AF-roh-vee-OH-lah) (S2) Single white with bluish edges, 1-4 per peduncle, slightly bell-shaped. Leaves small, elongated ovals, purple beneath, edges smooth, upper surface with sparse long hairs, edges with shorter denser hairs. Miniature rosette to slightly trailing. (formerly *S. pusilla*)
 - b. change *S. brevopilosa* (brev-i-pill-OH-sa) to *S. brevipilosus* (brev-i-pill-OH-sus)

- c. change *S. goetzeana* (ge-(r)-t-zee-AIN-a) to *S. goetzeanaus* (ge-(r)-t-zee-AIN-us)
- d. change *S. inconspicua* (in-kon-SPIK-yew-a) to *S. inconspicuous* (in-kon-SPIK-yew-us)
- e. change *S. ionantha* (eye-OH-NAN-tha) subsp. *grandifolia* (grand-di-FOH-lee-a) to *S. ionanthus* (EYE-oh-NAN-thus) subsp. *grandifolius* (gran-di-FOH-lee-us)
- f. change *S. ionantha* subsp. *grotei* to *S. ionanthus* subsp. *grotei*
- g. change *S. ionantha* subsp. *ionanthus* var. *diplotricha* (dip-lo-TRIKE-a) to *S. ionanthus* subsp. *ionanthus* var. *diplotrichus* (dip-lo-TRIKE-us)
- h. change *S. ionantha* subsp. *ionantha* var. *ionantha* to *S. ionanthus* subsp. *ionanthus* var. *ionanthus*
- i. change *S. ionantha* subsp. *mafiensis* to *S. ionanthus* subsp. *mafiensis*
- j. change *S. ionantha* subsp. *occidentalis* to *S. ionanthus* subsp. *occidentalis*

The following updates are found on page 61:

- a. change *S. ionantha* subsp. *orbicularis* to *S. ionanthus* subsp. *orbicularis*
- b. change *S. ionantha* subsp. *pendula* (PEN-dew-la) to *S. ionanthus* subsp. *pendulus* (PEN-dew-lus)
- c. change *S. ionantha* subsp. *velutina* (vel-yew-TYE-(or TI)-na) to *S. ionanthus* subsp. *velutinus* (vel-yew-TYE-(or TI)-nus)
- d. change *S. nitida* (ni-TYE-(or TI)-da) to *S. nitidus* (ni-TYE-(or TI)-dus)
- e. Delete *S. pusilla* entirely. It is now called *S. afroviola*.
- f. change *S. rupicola* (roo-pi-KOH-la) to *S. ionanthus* subsp. *rupicolus* (roo-pi-KOH-lus)
- g. Add *S. ulugurensis* (oo-loo-goo-REN-sis) (S 8) No description available. Not in cultivation.
- h. Add *S. watkinsii* (wat-KIN-see-eye) (S 10) No description available. Not in cultivation.

5. Page 62 should be replaced in its entirety with the copy included on page 34 of this issue of *African Violet Magazine*.
6. On page 69, Considerations for Judging Interpretive Arrangements, Space, should be changed to read, "Design begins with the space allowed. If niches or backdrops are furnished, the exhibit should fill the space with enough margin so as not to crowd the sides. If any material **(excluding the base, anchor, draping, or backdrop)** touches the sides of the niche, points are deducted. **If any material extends beyond the dimensions given in the schedule, it is eliminated from consideration.**"
7. This update will not take place until November 15, 2018, due to show schedules that have been approved in the meantime. Add the following phrase, which is in bold print below, to Page 79, the last paragraph, "Two thirds of the total exhibits must be in horticulture division(s) or the show will not be judged. **In order to be considered for the AVSA Standard Show Award, at least 51% of the horticulture division(s) must be comprised of African violets.**" *(Note: Blue ribbons received by exhibitors in shows not considered for the AVSA Standard Show Award will still count toward judging certification. A signed show schedule will not count towards shows judged for judging certification.)*

Russian/Ukrainian Varieties

In an AVSA sanctioned show, Russian/Ukrainian varieties shall be entered under the transliterated Russian/Ukrainian name, and **not** under the translated name, unless the registered name is already translated. The following, for example: AE-It's Raining, Hello America!, and LE-Las Vegas are not transliterated.

Online Handbook

Due to a few issues with the online **Handbook**, it has become apparent that specific instructions are needed instantaneously to solve problems as they arise. Beginning in November, there will be instructions posted on the website under Shows and Judges to assist you in resolving any issues as they might occur.

Local Shows

When you are choosing committee chairs for local shows, be sure to select someone with experience or train and oversee the work of someone new who is accepting that position. It is important to mentor new people. In addition, consideration could be given to appointing a co-chair.

When a club issues an award for a vintage violet or a specific variety of violet, it is easier for the judges

to choose a recipient for the award if a special class is designated in the show schedule for these purposes. A rule can be inserted in the show schedule stating that only plants in specific class(es) will be considered for these special awards. For example, "Only plants in the Vintage Violet Class will be considered for the Best Vintage Violet Award."

In the front of the *African Violet Magazine* on the AVSA Information page, the Show Schedule Approver contact information is listed. Show

Chairs should be sure to send their own contact information to the Schedule Approver when sending in a Show Schedule for approval in case there are issues that need to be addressed.

Hybridizer Awards

If a hybridizer would like to sponsor a collection class of their own hybrids in a national show, a minimum of \$150 for the best collection and \$75 for the second best collection must be awarded. The award of a third best collection is optional.

The AVSA Houston Convention and Show in 2019 should be a spectacular event. Make plans now to attend and enjoy a beautiful show, fellowship with friends, and informative workshops.

Beginning in November, there will be instructions posted on the website under Shows and Judges.

CLASSIFICATION OF SAINTPAULIA SPECIES

This list represents abbreviations and names following the Nishii et. al., 2015 merger of *Saintpaulia* as a section in genus *Streptocarpus*. Some names have been corrected for Latin gender agreement with the genus name *Streptocarpus*.

S. 1. <i>inconspicuus</i> (not in cultivation)	S. 5c2. cl. <i>diplotrichus</i> Punter No. 0
S. 2. <i>afroviola</i> (not in cultivation)	S. 5c2. cl. <i>diplotrichus</i> Punter No. 6
S. 3. <i>shumensis</i>	S. 5c2. cl. <i>diplotrichus</i> Punter No. 7
S. 3. cl. <i>shumensis</i>	S. 5c2. cl. <i>diplotrichus</i> Uppsala 3084
S. 3. cl. <i>shumensis</i> Mather EE	S. 5c2. cl. <i>diplotrichus</i> Uppsala 3085
S. 4. <i>teitensis</i>	5e. subspecies <i>occidentalis</i>
S. 5. <i>ionanthus</i>	S. 5e. cl. <i>magungensis</i> var. <i>occidentalis</i>
5a. subspecies <i>grandifolius</i>	S. 5e. cl. <i>magungensis</i> var. <i>occidentalis</i>
S. 5a. cl. <i>grandifolius</i> No. 237	Mather No. 12
S. 5a. cl. <i>grandifolius</i> No. 299	5f. subspecies <i>orbicularis</i>
5b. subspecies <i>grotei</i>	S. 5f. cl. <i>orbicularis</i>
S. 5b. cl. <i>confusa</i>	S. 5f. cl. <i>orbicularis</i> var. <i>purpurea</i>
S. 5b. cl. <i>confusa</i> Mather Brother Paddy	5g. subspecies <i>pendulus</i>
S. 5b. cl. <i>confusa</i> Mather E	S. 5g. cl. <i>intermedia</i>
S. 5b. cl. <i>confusa</i> Uppsala 3395	S. 5g. cl. <i>pendulus</i>
S. 5b. cl. <i>difficilis</i>	S. 5g. cl. <i>pendulus</i> Cornell G304
S. 5b. cl. <i>difficilis</i> Mather No. 2	S. 5g. cl. <i>pendulus</i> Uppsala 3087
S. 5b. cl. <i>difficilis</i> Uppsala 3396	S. 5g. cl. <i>pendulus</i> Uppsala 3089
S. 5b. cl. <i>grotei</i>	S. 5g. cl. <i>pendulus</i> Uppsala 3090
S. 5b. cl. <i>grotei</i> Amazon	S. 5g. cl. <i>pendulus</i> var. <i>kizarae</i>
S. 5b. cl. <i>grotei</i> Cornell G149	5h. subspecies <i>rupicolus</i>
S. 5b. cl. <i>grotei</i> Mather No. 7	S. 5h. cl. <i>rupicolus</i>
S. 5b. cl. <i>grotei</i> Mather No. 21	S. 5h. cl. <i>rupicolus</i> Mather No. 5
S. 5b. cl. <i>grotei</i> Mather V	S. 5h. cl. <i>rupicolus</i> pale or lite
S. 5b. cl. <i>grotei</i> Protzen or Uppsala 3091	S. 5h. cl. <i>rupicolus</i> Cha Simba or
S. 5b. cl. <i>grotei</i> Silvert	Chasimba
S. 5b. cl. <i>grotei</i> sport	S. 5h. cl. <i>rupicolus</i> Kacharoroni or
S. 5b. cl. <i>magungensis</i>	Robertson
S. 5b. cl. <i>magungensis</i> var. <i>minima</i>	5i. subspecies <i>velutinus</i>
5c. subspecies <i>ionanthus</i>	S. 5i. cl. <i>velutinus</i>
1. variety <i>ionanthus</i>	S. 5i. cl. <i>velutinus</i> Amazon
S. 5c1. cl. <i>ionanthus</i> House of Amani	S. 5i. cl. <i>velutinus</i> lite
S. 5c1. cl. <i>ionanthus</i>	S. 6. <i>brevipilosus</i>
S. 5c1. cl. <i>ionanthus</i> Amazon	S. 6. cl. <i>brevipilosus</i>
S. 5c1. cl. <i>ionanthus</i> 930919	S. 6. cl. <i>brevipilosus</i> Mather No. 10
S. 5c1. cl. Pangani Falls	S. 6. cl. <i>brevipilosus</i> Grusell or Nguru
S. 5c1. cl. Sigi Falls	Mnt. or Uppsala 3154
S. 5c1. cl. <i>tongwensis</i>	S. 7. <i>nitidus</i>
S. 5c1. cl. <i>tongwensis</i> Uppsala 3397	S. 8. <i>ulugurensis</i> (not in cultivation)
S. 5c1. cl. white <i>ionanthus</i> or Mather No. 20	S. 9. <i>goetzeanus</i>
2. variety <i>diplotrichus</i>	S. 10. <i>watkinsii</i> (not in cultivation)
S. 5c2. cl. <i>diplotrichus</i> Parker	

The purpose of using abbreviated names is to shorten the required scientific names that need to be used. For example, you can more easily write on your label **S. 5c2. cl. *diplotrichus* Parker** than *Streptocarpus* sect. *Saintpaulia ionanthus*, subspecies *ionanthus*, var. *diplotrichus*, clone Parker. (The 5c2. code indicates that it is the species *ionanthus*, subspecies *ionanthus*, var. *diplotrichus* so all that information does not need to be written out.) **Note:** The use of italics for the "S" in the former system represents a *Saintpaulia* species. Under the Nishii et. al. system, the "S" does not need to be in italics.

Affiliate Update

By Jeri Anderson - *Affiliate Chair*

Email: twajda1@comcast.net

By now just about everyone has learned how to update their club information and how to enter their club events via the www.AVSA.org website. Now, I'm happy to announce that a "Guide for Starting a New Club" document is available on the website. Clicking on LOCAL CLUBS provides the link to the document right below the Local Club Update area. For anyone who is thinking of starting a new African violet club, this is a helpful document to read. Remember that the affiliate chair can assist in locating registered AVSA members in your area. This can be a big help in finding people who might be interested in joining a local club. I think finding members to start a club is probably the biggest job clubs have.

Marketing Efforts

At the Buffalo convention it was announced that Joyce Stork will chair a new Marketing committee. It had come to the attention of the AVSA Board that we need to do more marketing. Based on my own experience I can say there was a time when I wasn't even aware there was such a thing as an African violet club. It turned out there was a club meeting very close to my home. Thanks to my daughter, I found the Tucson African Violet Society in 2004, the same year that the convention was held in Tucson.

All our AVSA affiliates can help with marketing by promoting our local club more and also by making people aware of the African Violet Society of America. One idea is to get some colorful postcards printed and see if you can post them at plant nurseries, botanical gardens, etc., in your area. The postcard should have the club's website or Facebook information so people can find your meeting times and location. I feel that we do a good



job of advertising our shows and sales, but we don't do much in the way of advertising between these events. Another simple idea is to leave an issue of *African Violet Magazine* in the waiting room of your doctors' and dentists' offices. Before placing them, print some labels with your club information and affix the label to the front of the AVM. I'm sure you can think of many more things to do. We all hope to get new members by advertising, but also by simply making the public aware that there is such a resource as an African Violet Society.

Club Starts

A new Virtual Club has joined AVSA. The Asociación Mexicana de Violetas Africanas club is located in Mexico. Here is the club's online site: <https://www.facebook.com/AMVAMEX/>

The following people are working to start a club:

John Geiser: Grand Rapids, MI

Email: johnrgeiser@gmail.com

Mary Ann McNeill: Washington, NC

Email: jmcneill70@suddenlink.net

Sheila Black: Roanoke, VA

Email: jsheilarblack@cox.net

Jennie Lawrence: Laramie, WY

Email: jmissjeannae@yahoo.com

Donna Juergenson: Pueblo, CO

Email: jdjuerson2@gmail.com

Alice Peterson: Madison, WI

Email: jpeters56@tds.net

Please contact these people if you, or anyone you know, is interested in joining a club in the local area.

There are several states that do not have even one African violet club. If you live in one of these states, please consider starting a local club.



AVSA Is Now on Pinterest!

By Karin Peters

Karin.m.peters@gmail.com - (979) 450-3680

First AVSA got a website, then a Facebook page, a YouTube Channel, an email newsletter, and now Pinterest. Being on the Internet in lots of different spaces helps us share information, photos and our love of violets with each other and potential new AVSA members. Don't know about Pinterest? Read on!

What Is Pinterest?

Pinterest is a virtual, or online, version of a bulletin board. You can pin (save) images of interest to come back to. The site doesn't just save the image; it bookmarks the location of the image so you can go back to the original source.

Pinterest has several "screens." One is your newsfeed, similar to Facebook, where Pinterest suggests images (pins) based on your recent searches or interests. You can scroll through this screen and have the option to save these pins to your boards. Think of boards as on-line file folders where you have saved pins in various categories of interest to you. Another screen for Pinterest shows all your boards so you can browse them or locate items you've pinned in the past. In addition, Pinterest lets you search for topics of interest, or within your own boards and pins.

Pinterest is a social media platform like Facebook or Instagram, but its long-standing popularity has led to its use as a search engine of sorts. Pinterest can locate items similarly to a Google search, but presents pictures instead of blocks of text, and only provides results from existing pins. That sounds limiting, but it really isn't. Also, Pinterest resembles Facebook because of its newsfeed of images and pins that the system decides you might like to see.

**It is important
to show
people all
African
violets have
to offer.**

Using Pinterest for African Violets

Have you ever been given a list of specific hybrids from a friend or seller only to painstakingly search each individual hybrid one at a time? Now, your friends and resources can add their plants to a Pinterest board, and you can then re-pin them to your own if you like. You can even share boards with friends on Pinterest. This way, you both have the names and pictures all in one place at first glance. Think of how much easier trading leaves would be!

Have you ever wanted to see a picture of a violet other than the photo in First Class? Or maybe you want to see a picture of an African violet that has received too much light. You can use the search function in Pinterest to look up both and even save what you find for later.

AVSA on Pinterest

It is important to show people all that African violets have to offer. Because Pinterest is becoming such a popular source to the public of popular topics and information, it is important that African violets have a *significant* presence on Pinterest. And with all online searches, users should pay attention to the source for pins (the place on the Internet where clicking on the pin takes you). AVSA can be **the** credible source for African violets on Pinterest. At the same time, we can use platforms like Pinterest to share our love and knowledge of African violets and gesneriads.

So, AVSA has created its own Pinterest page! www.pinterest.com/AfricanVioletSocietyofAmerica/

Here are just some of the boards that our Pinterest page features currently: AVSA, African Violet Care, African Violet Varieties, African Violets on Display, Standards, Semis, Minis, Trailers,

Wasps, Show Plants, Chimeras, and Controlling Pests and Disease. Many more will be added in the future.

Now you can go to the AVSA on Pinterest to look through and link to articles on care and to see new pictures of various hybrids.

What If I'm Not on Pinterest?

It's easy to sign up for a Pinterest account. Just go to www.pinterest.com and follow the steps to sign up. You also can go to the AVSA Facebook page (www.facebook.com/AVSA.org) and find a video I made on how to log in to Pinterest and how to follow the AVSA page on Pinterest.

We Need Your Help

There are a few ways we need your help with the AVSA Pinterest page:

- First, we need you to interact with the page by visiting and following AVSA and pinning images **from** the AVSA page **to** your personal boards. The more interaction and pinning we all do, the more engagement and awareness we create for our hobby. We want to show

pictures that help people visualize how they can grow violets in their own homes.

- We need some volunteers to help pin to the AVSA Pinterest pages to make sure our boards are stocked with more photos. You don't have to have your own pictures, because you can pin African violet pictures already on Pinterest to the AVSA board. I can give more detailed information on how to do this. For more information, you can find a video at the AVSA Facebook page at www.facebook.com/AVSA.org.

Thank you for your support and please be sure to find and follow AVSA on Pinterest by going here: www.pinterest.com/AfricanVioletSocietyofAmerica/

We need some volunteers to help pin to the AVSA Pinterest pages.

Editor's Note: *AVSA wants to engage with and support all members, including those who are active online and those who are not! Social media is not a replacement for AVM or other publications and activities for members, but another way to express and enrich our love of growing African violets. So, if you already use Pinterest, please follow and pin to or re-pin from our page.*



AVSA – Building Maintenance Fund

Susan Hapner - *Chairman*

12916 Midfield Terrace • St. Louis, MO 63146

June 1, 2018 – July 31, 2018



Thumbprint - Under \$25

Janice Murray

AVC of Burlington County

In lieu of judge's expenses for David Tooker

Joy Rohan

Claire Ulanoff

Phillip Stevenson

Spots Spot Pet Grooming



Geneva - \$100-\$499

Bill and Marge Farrand

Technically Speaking...or Not

By Neil Lipson

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Email: ndlipson@gmail.com

This month, I would like to address violets that drift away, and how chimeras are not the only violets that drift. To begin with, I really should define what I mean by drift. It simply means that over the years a violet will change; the foliage could be different and the blossom could change in color or fantasy. In the case of a chimera, the stripes will be different.



Sugar 'n' Spice

share why this happens and how to prevent it from happening. My friends Paula Bal and Sandy Skalski call it "backing up your collection."



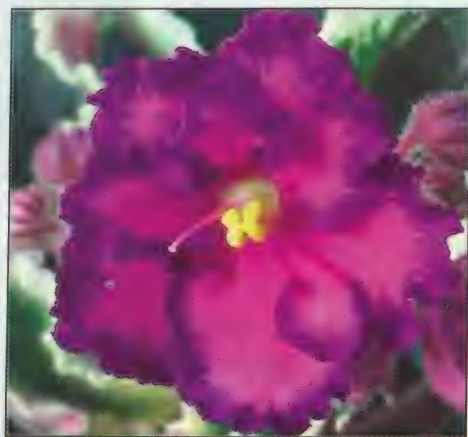
Aca's Raspberry Rapture "before" photo

I love not only chimeras, but also wide-edge bicolor violets. The wider the edge, the more dazzling I find the flowers to be. However, edged blossoms can vary from one plant to another, even from the mother plant to her



was going on?

offspring. I worked hard to find 'Aca's Raspberry Rapture,' and again, discovered a friend who had it and shared a few leaves. I knew the leaves were from the mother plant I always had admired, but the blossoms I grew from these leaves produced a very thin edge, nothing like what the mother plant had. I was so disappointed. What



Aca's Raspberry Rapture 2 "after" photo

I continued to propagate, and even by a few years later, the edge did not come out the way I was hoping. Then, just when I was ready to give up, bam! The flower bloomed with the wide edge, just like its mother. I learned from this experience that recessive genes can sometimes take time. In this case, it took years. In the "after" photo, the difference in the width of the edge is amazing.

Violets' lack of stability, culture changes and environmental differences from one grower to another affect the plants. Most of these factors are almost impossible to narrow down, as they can include temperature, humidity, soil and many more variables. As my friend Pat Hancock always told me, "the violets always seem to know what is going on outdoors."

One of the strangest occurrences is when a violet suddenly starts reaching. I have seen this most often with 'Anthoflores Natalie.' This can mean either it is getting too little light, or possibly too

much, and the leaves point up to “protect” the plant. Using rings can bring the leaves down, but this might be a genetic problem that won’t go away.



Concord in the past

One chimera that has been a problem for me over the years is Concord. Now, the purple stripe is getting wider while the white stripe is getting thinner. It is becoming tougher and tougher to find a stable plant of this variety, but I know for a fact that Japanese growers have an abundance of them. They just haven’t filtered over to the United States, but once I get one, I will propagate it and get it out to the public like I did with Ann and Sugar ‘n’ Spice. The next photo shows my Concord, decades later, after it drifted.

Species are very stable, which makes perfect sense, as advanced hybridization has reduced stability. I remember when the first yellow flower was introduced. The more it was “refined” through hybridization, the worse it got, making it relatively obscure today.



Concord after drifting

Many people want to know the best way to reproduce a special plant that is not a chimera, and I have two techniques. If you want a high chance of reproducibility, then crown the plant and grow a sucker. This is the complex option, and it can take some time to see results. The other way is to put down four or five leaves, grow them, and pick the one that is most true. Many growers think growing from a leaf leads to 100 percent perfection, but ‘ACA’s Raspberry Rapture’ showed the mistake in that thinking.

The same situation applies to many of the Russian varieties, and I frequently have had to get leaves from more than one grower. A good example of this was RS-Plutovka, for which I had to start leaves from three growers until one produced the correct bloom.



Pluovka

So, what does this all mean? It depends on how wedded you are to a particular variety. You will go to any lengths to find a plant that produces the blossom like that the hybridizer achieved. That’s why I hope someday there will be a “master list” created from growers who wish to participate for those of us who have an overwhelming desire to replicate the plant that “drifted away.”

Because there are tens of thousands of different violets, we, the growers, must “preserve” our favorites by giving them away and keeping track of who has various plants. It is a lot of work, but it can make a huge difference to many growers to have their favorite African violet back again.

I would like to thank Carolee Carter for substantial technical and editing help on this article.



Buckeye Scrumptious

Exhibited by: Sandra Skalski

Hybridized by: P. Hancock

Large Standard

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Everdina

Exhibited by:

Anne Brown

Hybridized by:

H. Inpijn/R. Nadeau

Miniature

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Jolly Fireball

Exhibited by: Linda Hall
Hybridized by: H. Pittman
Semiminiature



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Jolly Trinket

Exhibited by: Barbara Donsky
Hybridized by: H. Pittman
Semiminiature

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Quantifying Micro-Mini Violets

Josh McKinney - Madison, AL

What *is* a micro-miniature African violet? To answer that question, we need to first know the definition of a miniature. AVSA defines a miniature violet as one that will not exceed six inches in diameter at maturity. However, there is no official AVSA class for micro-miniatures. Thus, they are grouped in the miniature violet class in a show.

The micro prefix (1×10^{-6}), represented by the Greek letter μ , is the *Système International d'Unités* term for referring to micro-quantity measures. As such, a micrometer is a millionth of a meter (μm); a microgram (μg) is a millionth of a gram, etc. Thankfully, in the case of violets, micro doesn't mean millionth! Many growers of these small minis quantify them as violets that do not exceed two to three inches at maturity, or roughly half the size of regular miniatures. These plants do not merely grow smaller in diameter, but often have smaller leaves and blossoms.

Finding Micro-Minis

Now that we have defined micro-mini violets, and since they don't have an official class of their own, how do you find them? When searching descriptions of violet cultivars, it helps to look for specific key words such as small, tiny or micro. Use of these words won't necessarily guarantee the plant is a micro-mini, however. I got most of the ideas for this list of smaller minis to consider from Reed's Greenhouse, and descriptions that follow are from First Class:

- Lil Periscope: Single dark purple bell and foliage is medium green, heart-shaped, glossy
- Midget Gumdrops, with double dark pink flowers and mosaic variegated foliage
- Misty Miss with double blue and white flowers

- Tsunami, with two-tone lavender blossoms
- Tundra Trumpets, with orchid bells.

Here are several mini trailing varieties, including: Chantaspring, Little Chipperry Trail, Pip Squeek, Pixie Runaround, Rainbow's End, Senk's Fruit Fly and Teeny Bopper.

In addition, the following are some of Rob's tiny variegated minis: Rob's Bad Bunny (9459) and Rob's Bunny Hop (8875) with pink flowers; Rob's June Bug (8062) has white blossoms; Rob's Twinkle Blue (8616) has dark blue pansies over tiny, very dark pointed foliage; and Rob's Twinkle Pink (7899) has semidouble hot-pink flowers on tiny, dark green pointed foliage.

When searching descriptions of violet cultivars, it helps to look for specific key words such as small, tiny or micro.

Potting Micro-Minis

Which pots are suitable for growing micro-minis? In past decades, one could find 1.5-inch plastic terra cotta thumb pots that came with little snap-on saucers. From a practical standpoint, watering plants in these pots was a bit of a challenge. Many growers of micro violets either wick-water them or culture them in a terrarium to maintain humidity.

In the past, some growers have used empty 35-mm plastic film containers as reservoirs, but since the advent of digital photography, these are rarer. A better option is to use orange prescription bottles as reservoirs. Small glass jars also work.

Caring for Micro-Minis

Today, plastic one-ounce condiment cups are just the right size, around 1.5 inches across. You just need to punch a few holes and you're ready to go. If you use a small drill bit, you can finish five at a time. You might need a thinner wick than usual. A more diluted fertilizer solution helps

Small-Growing Miniatures

Flower Color	Green Foliage	Variegated Foliage	Trailing Foliage
Blue-purple	Amoeba (7390) Lil Periscope (9933) Rob's Twinkle Blue (8616) Skagit Toy Nugget (5942) Tsunami (5891)	Precious Purple (7477) Snuggles Tiny Baby Spotted Pony Tiny Tulip	Bunny Trail Pixie Runaround*# Senk's Fruit Fly (9856) Teeny Bopper (5017) Tiny Wood Trail
Fuchsia-red	Lil Thornbird Precious Red Tiny Twirls	Midget Flame Ness Tiny Flame Rob's Love Bite	Little Chippery Trail (7665) Red Rider Trail
Pink	Peppermint Girl Rob's Twinkle Pink (7899) Tiny Dancer (9414) Tundra Trumpets	Little Tyke Rob's Bunny Hop (8875) Rob's Bad Bunny (9459)	Pip Squeek (3603) Rosebud Trail Spunky Trail Tiny Pink Bells
White/Other	Alan's Mini Little Jayhawker* (7270) Misty Miss*	Rob's June Bug (8062) Tundra Snowflake	Chantaspring (yellow) Rainbow's End* (green)

* - bicolor # - variegated trailer

reduce the potential for fertilizer burn and salt build-up. Remember to flush with plain water after a month or whenever it becomes necessary.

Additionally, since they are shorter, move micros a little closer to the light source. Using a wick-watering well should help accomplish this

time to thin them out is when repotting, which should be more frequent than with larger varieties. Micro-mini violets are space efficient, often propagate easily and are endearing. If you haven't tried growing them yet, rise to the challenge and micro-size your violets!



Photo Credit: Neil Lipson

Taffeta Blue

Exhibited by:

Alla Katova

Hybridized by:

Lyndon Lyon

Greenhouses/P. Sorano
Standard

In Search of New Violets

Dr. Jeff Smith - *The Indiana Academy*

Ball State University • Muncie, IN 47306

Email: JSmith4@bsu.edu

Several social media groups have had discussions about the changes that occur in African violet plants and flowers depending on the temperature used for growing the plants. There are several flower color traits that change expression rather drastically with even a small change (8 to 10 degrees F) in growing temperature. For example, Geneva edges might disappear and the amount of white in thumbprint flowers will decrease when these plants are grown in cool conditions. With many flowers, the color will be darker and more intense under cooler temperatures. White flowers might show signs of pink or purple when grown cool. New growers might be confused by these color changes and wonder if their plants have mutated or were misidentified because they are not growing "true" to their descriptions.

The culprit behind these color changes is the sensitivity of various genes and enzymes to temperature. When grown warmer, the genes or enzymes for color production are inhibited or stop working. Pigments are not made and white coloration or paler overall color is the result. This is perfectly normal for these plants and doesn't mean that the plant was misidentified or has sported. The plant is just growing a bit differently in response to the temperature changes. Once the growing temperature is increased, these plants will bloom as expected to their description. However, be patient, because the time needed for buds to develop and mature into full bloom takes several weeks.

If you are timing the finish of a show plant, you might want to pay close attention to the temperature of your growing space as you come to the final disbudding and grooming for show. If the temperature drops during these final weeks before show, the blooms that develop could be slightly "off-color." This could affect the plant's success during judging because it might not appear true to type. This might not be a problem for shows



coming up this month, but plants groomed for shows in early winter and under cooler temperatures could have some coloration problems due to the change in temperature.

Q: My goal is to create a longifolia leaf with mosaic variegation. I know when I cross the green foliage to the mosaic parent I will likely get all green F1 offspring. Should I cross two F1 plants together, or should I backcross to the mosaic foliage for the best chance of mosaic offspring?

A: Crossing two F1 plants together will give you some mosaic offspring in the F2. However, the percentage of mosaic offspring should be higher if you backcross to the mosaic parent. Mosaic variegation often shows immediately after germination, so you should be able to select for this foliage early and only grow out those plants that are variegated. This should save you time and space.

If longifolia foliage is also your goal, I suspect this is a dominant trait, so be sure that your F1 plant used in either of the described crosses is showing good longifolia foliage. This foliage shape also should show up early in the seedlings, allowing selection at an early stage. If your goal is a combination of mosaic variegation and longifolia foliage, I would think you could select for both traits pretty early in the seedlings. Your percentage of plants with both traits might be low, but early selection should allow you to target for both traits at the same time. It's rare that you can select for two traits this early. If you were selecting for a flower color to show up in the first bloom, you would have to grow out many seedlings and trust your luck. Good luck with your goal. I'd like to see this combination of foliage traits together.

Q: I've recently seen some pictures of miniature cultivars that are so covered with blooms the foliage is hidden from view. Is this a normal healthy trait for a plant to have?

A: I would speculate that in the long run this isn't a very healthy trait for a plant. Flowers that cover the leaves block light and prevent photosynthesis. The plant will be unable to make enough food to continue growing and will likely go into shock or decline in health until the flowers fade and are no longer blocking the light. In severe cases, it could even cause the plant to starve to death. Remember that many show plants are disbudded and are not allowed to flower until just before show. This causes more buds to form, producing a higher bloom count. For show purposes, this is a neat trick to produce an impressive plant. However, I would think that after the show, these plants are disbudded and started over again for the next show. They are not allowed to keep the flowers, blocking the light for photosynthesis.

Viewed another way, the trait for high flower production is being artificially maintained by the grower for the purpose of growing spectacular show plants. Nature should select against traits that inhibit photosynthesis and food production. This is another case where humans have used artificial selection to exaggerate a trait that would be selected against, or perhaps even be fatal, in nature.

Q: Has the African violet species formerly known as *S. pendula* been used to produce trailing African violets? If not, would it be a good choice for hybridizing?

A: I have not come across any publications indicating that *S. pendula* was used in the production of trailing African violets. It might have happened, but records I've been able to find or review have not mentioned working with this species plant.

I would think this "species" would have limited use in creating new trailing cultivars. The main drawback is not the way it trails, but in its limited flower production. This plant typically only produces one flower per leaf. Crossing *S. pendula* to a hybrid that has a very high flower count might overcome this restriction, but my hypothesis would be that the low flower count would dominate and be very difficult to breed out of the offspring.

Q: Are some African violets naturally infertile? I've tried to make crosses on one particular plant and never seem to have success. Any suggestions?

A: Yes, some African violets are naturally infertile. Those plants that have converted their stamens into petals, such as in semi-doubles and double flowers, are usually male sterile (pollen sterile). You might be able to use these plants as a seed parent, but if they produce no pollen, it is impossible to use them as a male parent.

There are some instances where the pistil of the flowers seems to always develop incorrectly, as evidenced by a change in shape, lack of the stigma at the tip of the style, or other irregularity in structure. These problems can sometimes be due to culture problems, but often they are genetic and the plant is effectively sterile.

If the pistil seems to be normal in structure, try raising the humidity around the plant by putting it under a dome for a while. Misting will not be sufficient to raise the humidity, but an enclosed atmosphere often works. You might have to wait until half-mature buds develop in the new environment before the plant becomes receptive to pollen. Flowers that are already open or nearly

**Some
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open are unlikely to respond to a change in humidity for pollination; their development and function has already been affected by the dry atmosphere. New buds and subsequent flowers will have a better chance to be "normal" and receptive.

Watch for the stigma to slightly spread and appear wet or sticky before making the pollination. If the pollen is dry and powdery, you should see it stick to the receptive stigma. Again, stigma development and proper maturation often are linked to high humidity.

It is possible that there could be some sort of chemical or genetic barrier that is preventing pollination and seed set. However, given the ability of nearly all species plants to freely hybridize between themselves, I would be surprised if most African violets couldn't be crossed together with a little time and patience.

Organizing Your Collection

Josh McKinney - Madison, Alabama

When you begin growing African violets you might buy one or two at a store thinking to yourself, "Aren't these neat plants!" Then you see that bicolor you'd really like to have, or the mini with girl foliage and the eye-catching variegates. A short time later, you have a few dozen plants and realize you might need to get a handle on keeping them properly organized. Organization should start even before you bring new acquisitions home from a violet show or the box of new cuttings arrives via mail.

Gather Soil and Supplies

The first question to ask yourself is: Do you have enough soilless mix in which to start the cuttings? Make sure you have plenty set aside. Lately, I've been using a 50/50 mix of perlite and vermiculite since there isn't anything in the mix to encourage fungal growth. If you use your regular mix and it works, stick with it. Next, do you have enough pots? I like to start most

standards in the 3-ounce bathroom plastic cups and semis in the 2-ounce squatty condiment cups (See Table.)

Recently, I have been starting semis and minis in handy, small 1-ounce plastic condiment cups purchased at a violet show. I cut three holes in the bottom with a utility knife (X-ACTO) in a triangle formation and a fourth hole in the middle. If you wick, the middle hole is helpful for that purpose.



*Various plastic cups used for pots
(from largest 9 ounce to smallest 1 ounce).*

Type	Size	Top	Bottom	Height	Material
Small condiment cups	1 oz.	1 1/2"	1"	1 1/2"	milky plastic
Squatty condiment cups	2 oz.	2 1/8"	1 5/8"	1 5/8"	clear plastic
Bath Cups	3 oz.	2"	1 1/2"	2 1/4"	white plastic
Snack Cups	5.5 oz.	2 5/8"	2"	2 1/4"	clear plastic
Punch Cups	9 oz.	3 1/4"	2 1/8"	2 7/8"	clear plastic

Linear measurements in inches.

If you have very large leaves or gesneriad cuttings, the 5.5-ounce transparent plastic "snack cups" have a good capacity. They come 20 to a pack with lids, which I usually don't use because they are too shallow for saucers. If you want to use the snack cups for minis, the lids could help maintain humidity with some ventilation holes. The more difficult ones to punch holes in are the 2-ounce squatty condiment cups, which are made of a sturdier plastic. When your standards become more mature, you can plant them in 9-ounce plastic punch cups.

A good place to keep your plastic pots and other supplies is a plastic shoe box with a

snap-on lid. Another grower had mentioned in a previous article that white electrical tape makes good labels, and I thank the author for sharing such advice. The tape is waterproof and removable. I write the names in permanent marker with the planting date. When it is time for transplant, I can just transfer the label to a new pot. Plastic stake labels can break apart and disrupt the foliage growth, but the white tape labels don't. If you are ordering cuttings, you can make the labels out in advance per your selections. Or you can write directly on the solo cups if you like. I have done it both ways. Also, have spring or tap water set aside (I usually use tap water aged overnight). Some restaurant carryout plastic containers are good for propagation or new arrivals, as are the transparent plastic boxes from discount stores with gray lids. I put the lids aside and cover the top with plastic cling wrap. Make sure you have the corners vented so your cuttings won't get waterlogged.

Use First Class

Having the First Class program from AVSA has been a big help in getting my violets organized. I copy the entries from First Class and paste them into a simple database. That way, I can have all of them together in a small file. Some growers use a spreadsheet to help keep track of their violet notes and that would work well also. If you have an assortment coming and don't know the names ahead of time, make sure to record them once you unpack them. I like to use a portable word processor (AlphaSmart NEO 2). It is durable, easy to use, comes on in seconds and auto-saves your work. Once you type the names of your new cuttings or plants, you can upload the names to your computer by connecting a USB cable, opening a text editor and pressing send. The portable word processor "types" your document to the window of your

computer screen. Save your files and you're ready to edit.

When Cuttings Arrive

When your cuttings arrive, unpack them carefully and throw away any cotton or foil covering the cut end of the petioles. Make sure the blade is clean before you start. I use isopropyl alcohol to clean the knife after cutting a batch of leaves if they are from the same source. Recut the leaves at a 45-degree angle with a sharp knife and insert gently into the medium. If, however, the leaves are wilted, allow them to hydrate for a few hours in small cups of water. When planting, I squeeze the sides of the pot as I insert the leaf to reduce the chance of damaging it. I then check the position of the leaf and moisten the mix. You will need a plastic tray lined with newspaper or paper towels to soak up excess water. I don't fertilize much at first because there is a chance the delicate cuttings can be burned and there can be a fertilizer salt build-up in the mix before the plantlets are mature. It is better to use a weak solution after they are more established with good roots.

Isolate the new plants and cuttings from your existing plants. The square plastic boxes used for

produce are good for this, as are plastic rectangular shoebox containers. If you have other containers, they might work too. Just remember to air them out from time to time to prevent excess condensation. Furthermore, any rotten leaf edges should be trimmed away and any mushy leaves should quickly be discarded. You do not want any rot to spread to the healthy cuttings in that container.

To conclude, whenever you start a sucker, divide a plant, or start a leaf, make sure to label it. Don't count on proximity or memory to identify that mystery plantlet. Label it correctly from the start and reduce the number of unlabeled plants!

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Houston, Texas 2019 Convention Specific Awards

By Debbie McInnis - Awards Chair

It is never too early to be making plans to have fun in the Texas sun at the 2019 Houston Convention. Here is a list of the Specific Variety and Collection Awards donated so far for the 2019 convention show. I am aware of a few more that were **pledged** during the Buffalo Convention. You can continue to check the Award listing on www.AVSA.org for updates.

The awards that we give are important because they encourage people to show their plants and serve as a reward for their hard work. We would especially like to invite those who are members residing in **TEXAS** and surrounding states to talk with your club members and donate one or two awards for this convention, which will be held in your area. All awards will be listed in the convention souvenir book. Many thanks go to those members and affiliates who make our awards possible through their donations, and we encourage each of you to consider giving an award.

To be a part of this convention effort, please send your awards (payable to AVSA in U.S. funds) to:

AVSA Office

2375 North Street
Beaumont, TX 77702
Email: awards@avsa.org

The deadline to be included on the January/February AVM Awards page is November 1, 2018. Please include an email address or telephone contact. A donation form is also located on the convention web page.

Amateur Collection Awards

Best Holtkamp Collection -
\$300 - Holtkamp Greenhouses (TN)
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection -
\$200 - Holtkamp Greenhouses (TN)
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection -
\$100 - Holtkamp Greenhouses (TN)

Best Lyon's Greenhouse Collection - \$200 -
Paul Sorano (NY)
2nd Best Lyon's Greenhouse Collection - \$100 -
Paul Sorano (NY)
Best Robinson Collection - \$200 -
Ralph & Olive Robinson (NY)
2nd Best Robinson Collection - \$100 -
Ralph & Olive Robinson (NY)
Best Buckeye Collection - \$200 -
Pat Hancock (OH)
2nd Best Buckeye Collection - \$100 -
Pat Hancock (OH)
Best Russian Collection - \$300 -
Tatiana & Vladimir Kalgin (Moscow, Russia)
2nd Best Russian Collection - \$200 -
Tatiana & Vladimir Kalgin (Moscow, Russia)
3rd Best Russian Collection - \$100 -
Tatiana & Vladimir Kalgin (Moscow, Russia)

Commercial Awards and Collections

Best 'Lela Marie' - \$50 -
Early Bird Violet Club (AL)
Best Holtkamp Collection - \$300 -
Holtkamp Greenhouses (TN)
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection - \$200 -
Holtkamp Greenhouses (TN)
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection - \$100 -
Holtkamp Greenhouses (TN)

Specific Variety Awards - Amateur Division

Best 'Concord' - \$100 - Kazuo Horikoshi (Japan)
Best 'The Alps' - \$100 - Kazuo Horikoshi (Japan)
Best 'Del's Spring Blush' - \$50 -
Violet Reflections Group (Yahoo Online)
Best 'LE Karusel' - \$25 - Starz N Streps (SC)
Best 'Lela Marie' - \$50 -
Early Bird Violet Club (AL)
Best 'Lonestar Helen Mahr' - \$25 -
Richard & Anne Nicholas (TX)

Best 'Lonestar Lady' - \$25 -
Richard & Anne Nicholas (TX)
Best 'Lonestar Twilight' - \$50 -
Richard & Anne Nicholas (TX)
Best 'Marching Band' - \$25 -
Karyn Cichocki (NJ)
Best 'Ozark Sinningia' - \$35 -
David Harris (MO)
Best 'Rodeo Country' - \$75 -
Spring Branch AV Club (TX)

Best 'Sailor Boy' - \$25 -
Mike & Debbie McInnis (IN)
Best Standard Lonestar Series Plant - \$25 -
Tom & Marge Savage (TX)
Best 'Tina' (Maas) - \$25 - Janet Riemer (NJ)

This listing has only Specific Variety and Collection Awards. For all current awards, go to www.AVSA.org. A full awards list will appear in the January/February issue of *African Violet Magazine*.

Convention Pledges

To all members who pledged an award donation during the Buffalo Convention:

Thank you!

We have a very good start
on our Houston show awards.

Please, don't forget to send
in your promised checks.

Your donations will be listed once you do.

AVSA Buffalo Convention Results Online

By Penny Smith-Kerker

The AVSA library committee has been working hard compiling results from the 2018 AVSA and AVSC Buffalo Show Awards. Our goal has been to post results and documentation from the Buffalo meeting completed on our website by the end of

August. The information includes photos from the designs, African violet entries and gesneriad entries. We're also working on posting some videos. See the results and photos at www.avsa.org/library_conventions.

Totally Delightful!

By Anne Nicholas

A new DVD is listed for sale in the AVSA Store at www.avsa.org. The DVD also can be ordered by calling the AVSA office. Why is this important? Because this new product is unlike any AVSA product offered before. Remember the delightful "Meet the Commercials" DVD produced by AVSA Library members Andrea Worrell and Tom Glembocki? They teamed up to interview several AVSA commercial vendors in their own growing spaces. It was, and is, a super DVD that is still available in the AVSA store.

Well, Andrea is back and has upped her game. The new product is a DVD titled "Perfectly Pittman." (See the cover below). This DVD features Hortense and Ray Pittman, their multiple hybrids (both violets and streps), their growing techniques, growing spaces, their stories and their history in AVSA, which includes multiple awards and offices in the society. And, as the title of this article indicates, this DVD is totally delightful!

How They Did It

Andrea's focus on detail was in overdrive on this DVD. She found the perfect partner with technical skills and the same drive for perfection – none other than our own Joe Bruns. We all know Joe as the mastermind behind First Class and the

entries program. Together, Andrea and Joe make a dynamic duo. They live about 45 minutes apart in the Chicago area, but those electronic lines connecting the two must have burned a lot of "midnight oil," or whatever is used nowadays.

This project was four years in the making, all outside the realm of Andrea's and Joe's "real" and working lives. Andrea did endless research, writing, collecting photos, dividing the project into segments and deciding the special effects needed. Andrea had wonderful ideas about what she wanted on this DVD. She would tell Joe her vision and he might say, "No, I have not done that or do not know how." Andrea's response would be similar to, "Well, I guess you have to learn." Joe researched, then practiced and practiced. Those time-consuming special effects were achieved and became Joe's awesome contributions to the DVD. He used every technical skill he had and learned many more to help make this project special. I know for a fact they once spent nearly 20 hours perfecting one 45-second segment of special effects. They also would spend tons of time deciding to add or delete one more second of time here and there. The finished DVD is 63 minutes of delight and fun getting to know Hortense and Ray Pittman.



Perfectly Pittman, the new DVD in the AVSA Store.

Previewing the DVD

We showed a teaser of the product last year at our 2017 Lone Star convention. More than 30 people preordered it on the spot and did not even question that the DVD did not have a final price! Each time Andrea would call us with her progress, Richard would ask her if Hollywood had called her and Joe yet.

Earlier this year, Jan and Ron Davidson, and Richard and I drove to Hortense and Ray's home. In our hands were the beginnings of the DVD. We shared that portion with Ray and Hortense. Ray set up the DVD and we watched on a huge TV mounted on their wall. It was such an awesome day. The delight and amazement on their faces and their total enjoyment were worth a million dollars! Hortense has pain in her back much of the time and has some trouble hearing, so the sound was up full blast. Ray will celebrate his 100th birthday this December. What a wonderful couple – we should all hope to make a difference and to be as happy as they are. We left that finished portion of the DVD with them. They have

enjoyed it many times and have shared it with their family. What fun for all of them and what a treasure for the family. They will be even more amazed when they see the final product. Hortense and Ray have agreed to autograph some personal copies for Joe and Andrea, along with a few more to be offered at special auctions, etc.

Remember that all AVSA committee work is done on volunteer time. All Andrea and Joe may receive is heartwarming thanks from those fortunate enough to purchase and view this DVD. So, here are mine: Thank you, Andrea and Joe! Because of your time and many talents, we have an incredible tribute to two of the top “movers and shakers” in our violet world. Most importantly, thank you to Hortense and Ray for bringing so much beauty into our world.

Be sure to get your own copy of “Perfectly Pittman.” And, buy an extra copy for a good friend, or as a gift. This DVD is truly for anyone who loves flowers, not just African violets, and who appreciates a story of love, work, humor and dedication to our plant world.



In Memory

John Williams

John Williams, who had a special ability to joke and make you smile, had been involved with the Metro St. Louis African Violet Council for more than 40 years. He helped form a new St. Louis club and was an African violet judge, but really enjoyed clerking. He will be remembered with great fondness.

Barbara Burde

The AVSA family lost a great friend with the death of Barbara Burde on June 15, 2018. A tremendous mentor and leader, Barb was President of Thousand Oaks African Violet Society (TOAVS), Chair of the AVSA Internet Committee and a member of the African Violet Council of Southern California. She grew beautiful African violets and other gesneriads, especially kohlerias and sin-

ningias, and her strong loyalty and commitment to her local clubs, AVSA and the friends she made through them shined through everything Barb did.

Barb joined TOAVS in 1984 and remained active until her death. She was a mainstay of the club's annual show and exhibit at the Ventura County Fair, lending her wonderful artistic talents to award-winning designs and displays. She attained Senior Judge status, and was a popular judge at local, Council, and national levels.

As much as she enjoyed growing and showing, Barb also delighted in seeing others succeed. She shared her knowledge about violets freely with other growers, and was responsible for more than one Best in Show winning entry! She leaves behind her husband, David Burde, and a legacy of humor, kindness and insight. She will be greatly missed.



Photo Credit: Mel Grice

Jersey Blue Moonlight

Ohio State AVS 2017

Shown by: Debbie McInnis

Hybridized by: R. Kurzynski

Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Sinningia
'Kevin Garnett'

Exhibited by: Sherrie Zimmerman

The ABCs of Flowering

By Dr. Minh Bui

When we grow African Violets either for show or for fun, the goal is to get plenty of colorful blooms. Those vibrant fantasy blooms drive many of us mad with excitement. African violet flowers have mesmerized us for so long, and the genetics behind the development of flowers have been known for some time. For decades, plant geneticists used the model plant *Arabidopsis thaliana* (also known as mustard weed) to understand the many processes such as growth, adaptation and flower development.

Genetics of Flower Whorls

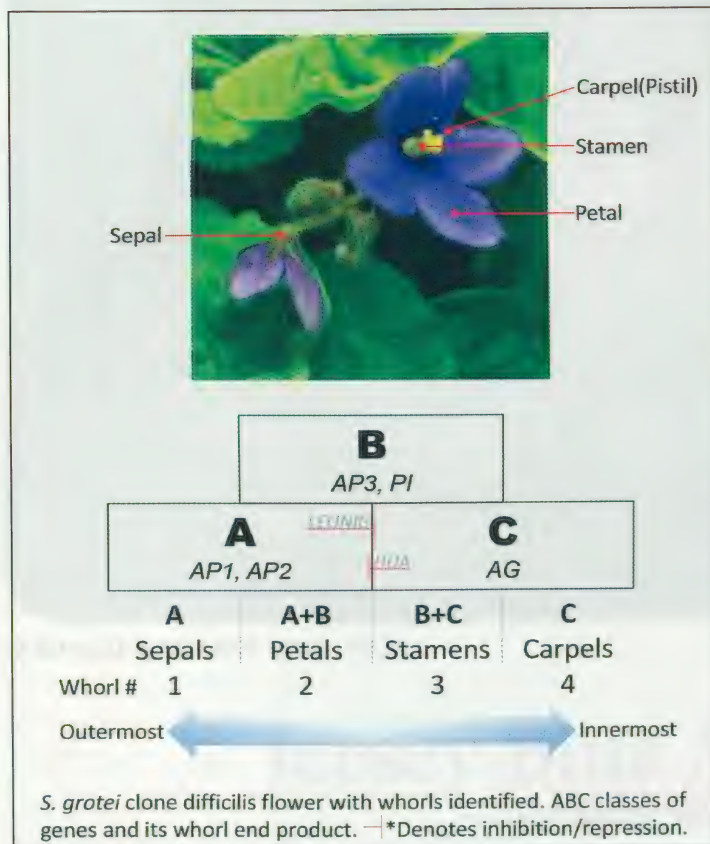
Flowers consist of four whorls. From the outermost to the innermost whorl, there are sepals (which make up the calyx in African violets),

There are three primary classes of floral homeotic (developmental) genes, which are grouped in either A, B or C class genes. The A class genes are *APETALA1* (*AP1*) and *APETALA2* (*AP2*); the B class genes are *APETALA3* (*AP3*) and *PISTILLATA* (*PI*); and the C class gene is *AGAMOUS* (*AG*).

Traditionally, gene names were given after mutating the gene, and the resulting phenotype (characteristics or physical attribute of the flower) determined the name of the gene. For instance, when *AP1* was mutated, the flower was apetalous (lacked petals). Similarly, when *AG* was mutated, the flower was agamous (lacked stamens and carpels) or lacked gametes. Gametes are the reproductive cells.

When only the A-class genes are expressed, the result is sepals in the outermost whorl. When both A- and B-class genes are expressed together, the result is petals. When both B- and C-class genes are co-expressed, stamens are produced, and when only the C-class is expressed, the result is carpels. To make things a bit more interesting, the outer two whorls prevent the C-class from spreading into its domains. Similarly, the inner two whorls must repress the A-class genes. This repressive mechanism prevents gamete production from spreading into the outer two whorls, and the sepals and petals from spreading into the inner whorls, which would produce sterile plants.

There are other repressive gene products that play an important role in setting the boundaries for the four whorls. One gene is *LEUNIG* (named after an Australian cartoonist), which is expressed in the outer whorls (1 -prevent *AG* from spreading. Similarly, the gene *HUA* (named after the Chinese word for flower) represses the A-class genes, preventing them from spreading into the stamens and



petals, stamens, and carpels/pistils. The development of these four whorls is dictated by co-expression of a series or combination of genes.

carpels. There are other non-homeotic genes (those not involved in controlling flower formation) that aid in setting the boundaries between the different floral structures, but these examples should give some insight into the already complex genetics. In higher plants, from African violets to flowering trees, the genetics is more complicated because more genes are involved.

Hybridization

Modern African violet hybridizers have developed some hybrids with fascinating floral displays. African violets with semidouble to double flowers are a result of mutating a C-class gene, leading to flowers that are less fertile, but have many petals because the A-class gene products have spread into the third, and possibly fourth, whorl. An example is 'Rose Bouquet.' There are African violets that have more than one set of four whorls, resulting in flowers with more petals without

sacrificing stamen and carpel development. Another oddball is 'Botanica,' in which thick carpelloid sepals, plenty of stamens, but no petals are produced. 'Botanica' is the result of a mutation in the A-class genes that led to the spreading of the C-class into the outer two whorls.

Although this article addressed only the basics of flower development, hopefully, it was sufficient to stir up some curiosity for growers on the genetics involved in producing the African violet blossoms to which many of us are addicted. As a fun exercise, look at what's blooming in your collection, and enjoy identifying the whorls and the class(es) of genes that are mutated for each plant!

Minh received his PhD in plant genetics in 2009 from the University of Maryland, College Park. His dissertation research focused on elucidating the function of floral genes LEUNIG, LEUNIG HOMOLOG, and SEUSS in flower and seed development.



Contribute to Your Magazine

All AVSA members have great ideas, challenges in growing and plenty of expertise. We'd love for you to share your ideas with readers. You also can enter our 2019 article contest through March 1, 2019. The deadlines for columns, features and coming events are listed below, along with a few tips for submitting.

AVM Deadlines

(Articles, Columns, Coming Events):

- January/February issue: November 1
- March/April issue: January 1
- May/June issue: March 1
- July/August issue: May 1
- September/October issue: July 1
- November/December issue: September 1

If possible, submit your article electronically in a Word or other text document. If you're writing

a how-to or similar feature and want to be sure we place images near specific text, just place the image name and caption where you want it right in the article, then attach the photographs as separate files. Here's an example:

repotting-for-show.jpg

Caption: Repot your show plant into a container that is one-third the plant's diameter.

We want it to be easy for you, but also match the look, style and flow of the entire magazine. Creating a PDF or Word layout of your article only adds to your time and ours, and we want it to be easy for readers to contribute.

Be sure to include your name and city near the headline. And simply send your article by email to: editor@avsa.org

Thanks; we're looking forward to more great articles!

3000 AVSA

Members are missing something... Are you one of them? Do you receive the Monthly *AVSA News* Email?

Beginning July 1 of this year, AVSA has a new email newsletter called the *AVSA News* - in addition to the popular weekly *Growing Tips* newsletter (which will no longer report as much society news.) The *AVSA News* normally will be sent by email once a month (except on rare occasions when there is an especially urgent message.)

What will be in the *AVSA News*?

- AVSA Convention updates and reminders
- Reminders for AVSA judges and teachers
- Reminders for Affiliated Clubs
- Requests for volunteers or for information from AVSA members
- Messages from the AVSA office about special hours or new products

And more!

In short, the *AVSA News* will be of interest to AVSA members, while the *Growing Tips* will focus on growing African violets. Members won't miss important member information, and *Growing Tips* will be easier to read and more focused. And yes, you are welcome to subscribe to both email newsletters. We hope you do!

How can you sign up for the email newsletters? Go to the Home page at www.avsa.org, and click on the button that reads "Sign up for Growing Tip" or "Sign Up for AVSA News" (in the upper right-hand corner below the button "Join Now.") Or contact the AVSA office to ask to subscribe.



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

N-Kapelka

Exhibited by: Beth Baker

Hybridized by: N. Berdnikova

Miniature

Minutes of the Annual Meeting African Violet Society of America, Inc.

May 26, 2018 - Buffalo, New York

The Annual meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. was called to order by First Vice President, Sue Ramser, at 3:21 p.m. in Ballroom A of the Adam's Mark Buffalo Hotel and Event Centre, Buffalo, New York. The invocation was led by Laurene Jones, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Sue Ramser. Sue Ramser stated that she was standing in for Third Vice President, Edna Rourke. Sue Ramser introduced the officers and presented the President, Dr. Richard Nicholas.

Mary Corondan, Secretary, reported a quorum was present.

Mary Corondan, Secretary, read the Standing Rules for the Annual Meeting, and they were adopted. A copy is attached to these minutes.

President Nicholas appointed Susan Hill, Chair, Candace Baldwin and David Kesler to approve the 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes. Neil Lipson was appointed Time Keeper. Penny Smith-Kerker, Chair, Jeri Anderson and Laurene Jones were appointed Tellers. Candace Baldwin reported the minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting were approved.

Laurene Jones, Resolutions Chair, presented the Courtesy Resolution which is attached. The Resolution was adopted.

The Bylaw Amendment for Article V Nominations and Elections, Section 5 Nominating Committee, paragraphs 1 and 4, were considered as published in the March/April 2018 issue of the African Violet Magazine. The amendment was adopted as printed.

Debbie McInnis from the Nominating Committee submitted the following nominees to serve as Directors: Randy Deutsch from South Dakota, David Kesler from Texas, Neil Lipson from Pennsylvania, Linda Price from Florida, and Sharon Shannon from New Mexico. The Directors were

elected by voice vote. President Nicholas announced these Directors will be installed at the banquet this evening.

President Nicholas recognized the retiring Directors: Candace Baldwin, Joe Bruns, Debbie McInnis, Carol Semrau and Penny Smith-Kerker. Also recognized as retiring were the following Committee Chairs: Debbie McInnis, Nominating Committee; Joyce Stork, Membership and Promotion Committee; and Sue Hoffmann, Publications Committee.

Anne Nicholas, Houston Convention Chair, extended an invitation to attend the 2019 Annual Convention in Houston, Texas to be held on May 26-June 2, 2019.

President Nicholas reported on hurricane damage to the AVSA Office in Beaumont. The damage estimate is approximately \$22,000, and the neighborhood is deteriorating. There is a concern for Amy's safety. There will be an investigation into the options that will be discussed at the Fall Executive Committee Meeting and reported to the Board. These options will be to 1) do nothing, 2) pay to repair the building, 3) sell the building and buy another facility, 4) sell the building and rent another facility, or 5) sell the building and temporarily have an office in Amy's home. An estimate of \$100,000 has been obtained from realtors as to the value of the AVSA Office.

Archives are also stored in the building as well as back issues of the AVM and old files. Volunteers will be going through these materials and separating the valuable information from obsolete materials.

AVSA entered into a contract with a consortium that includes Harvard University, the Smithsonian, and the New York Botanical Gardens to have back issues of the AVM high speed scanned. Issues

starting with Volume 1, Number 1, through three years prior to the current date will be scanned and available to the membership through AVSA's website at no cost to either AVSA or the membership.

Laurene Jones presented the "Lest We Forget" list commemorating members who are no longer with us.

President Nicholas announced there were items that had been found and turned in. Any individual wishing to claim items should be prepared to adequately describe the item(s). He also stated there will be a Special Board Meeting immediately following the Open Forum.

Joyce Stork reported that the AVSA Growing Tips received by subscribers via email would be separated from AVSA information. AVSA information will be contained in a separate email called the AVSA News, and it will be optional as to whether an individual would like to subscribe to the AVSA News. The AVSA News will be sent once a month beginning in July.

President Richard Nicholas reported that the new Editor of the African Violet Magazine will be Teresa Odle from New Mexico. She will begin her duties on July 1, 2018. President Nicholas further stated that an Editorial Board has been appointed which will be supervised by the First Vice President. Paul Kroll will serve as Convening Chair of the Editorial Board. The Editorial Committee will advise the Editor on the content and style of the AVM and evaluate some parts of the publication. Appointees

serving on the Editorial Board are Maureen Pratt, Bob Clark, Paul Kroll and Winston Goretsky. The Chair of the Publications Committee will serve as an ex-officio member of the Editorial Board.

A Marketing Committee has been created with Joyce Stork serving as Chair. This committee has been charged with a campaign to expand the visibility of AVSA. AVSA is now on Pinterest and Instagram.

Susan Anderson has developed a Strategic Planning model for AVSA. This involves a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis. This will guide AVSA's direction to proceed forward and will designate which committees will be part of that effort.

Online Convention registration should be available next year for the Houston Convention. The Technology Committee will be beta testing online registration with the Lone Star Convention this fall. Providing all goes well, this online registration will be instituted for the 2019 AVSA Convention. Paper registration will be available if it is needed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Submitted by Mary Corondan, Secretary

COMMITTEE TO APPROVE

Susan K. Hill, Chair

Candace Baldwin

David Kesler

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Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

***Streptocarpus* 'Dale's Starry Night'**

Exhibited by: B.J. Ohme



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: Neil Lipson

Pink Dove

Exhibited by: Debbie McInnis

Hybridized by: S. Sorano

Miniature

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The AVSA Library Committee gives special thanks to Andrea Worrell and Joe Bruns for the countless hours they volunteered to make this DVD possible.

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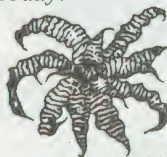
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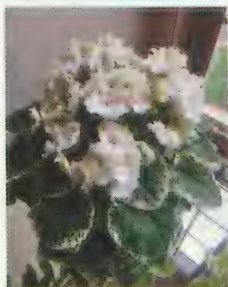
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African Violet

MAGAZINE

November • December 2018

Volume 71

Number 6



AVSA Information

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FOR ACCURATE SERVICE, SEND YOUR INQUIRIES TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

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PRICES FOR AVSA ROSETTES, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2012: SSA Packet with no rosettes \$5. Orders for rosettes must be specific as to which is needed-standard, species, mini-semi; they may be mixed, color and size all same price. **All rosettes are \$5 each added to price of SSA packet.**

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ARTICLES: FEATURES, COLUMNS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles and Columns: Jan. issue - Nov. 1; Mar. issue - Jan. 1; May issue - Mar. 1; July issue - May 1; Sept. issue - July 1; Nov. issue - Sep. 1.

COMING EVENTS: Send to Editor or fill out the form on avsa.org before deadlines below.

Coming Events Deadlines: Jan. issue - Nov. 1; Mar. issue - Jan. 1; May issue - Mar. 1; July issue - May 1; Sept. issue - July 1; Nov. issue - Sep. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and information: Cindi Nofziger, 1035 Lakewood Dr., Albany, OR 97321. *Email* <ccnofziger@comcast.net> (541) 926-8116 (**Ad rates on web site: AVSA.org**).

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan/Feb. issue - Nov. 1; Mar/Apr. issue - Jan. 1; May/June issue - Mar. 1; July/Aug. issue - May 1; Sept./Oct. issue - July 1; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 1.

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The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November.

Periodical postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a non-profit organization at 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 and at additional mailing offices.

Subscription \$35.00 per year which is included in membership dues • Copyright 2018 The African Violet Society of America, Inc. POSTMASTER: Please send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Magazine • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, TX 77702

African Violet

November • December

Volume 71

Number 6

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On this Cover:

Demers Pixie Belle

2nd Best African Violet in Show

Best African Violet (Canadian Origination)

Best Trailer, Best Trailer (Canadian Origination)

Exhibited by: Dr. William (Bill) E.H. Price

Hybridized by: N. Demers

Miniature trailer (CA)

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

President's Message

By Richard Nicholas - *President*

3113 Deerfield Dr. • Denton, TX 76208

Email: randanicho@aol.com

AVSA Friends:

By the time you read this column, summer will have passed and with it the heat – I hope. Fall shows will have passed or be well underway. Our thoughts will be turning to the upcoming holidays and maybe the big show in Houston this spring. More information on Houston appears on page 42.

As I think everyone knows by now, our new editor, **Teresa Odle**, has taken the reins of the AVM. The September/October issue was her first. I will say right up front that I believe she is off to a great start. If you are pleased or if you have suggestions, I know she would like to hear from you. Working with Teresa is a joy and I know more of her ideas are to come.

News is breaking fast for your AVSA. Our Nominating Committee, under the leadership of **Candace Baldwin**, has completed its work for the next election cycle. Our office needed a new computer, as Amy's desktop went to the big recycle bin in the sky; the plumbing also needed real repairs. That has now been completed, but unfortunately, many other repairs are needed (see page 10). More information on the office will be available after your Executive Committee meets in October. A group of volunteers made a trip to the office to begin a "cleanup" focused on old files and storage. Special thanks go to **Glenda and Jim Williams, Sue Ramser, Linda Turner and Anne Nicholas** for the hard work. Another volunteer day will be needed soon.



Online convention registration has been requested for some time. Thanks to the efforts of our website administrator, **Tom Glembocki**, a new system is ready — at no cost — to be tested at the Lone Star AVC fall show. And, assuming all goes well, we will have easy online registration for the 2019 Houston convention.

AVSA members who are customers of Verizon Wireless have complained about problems accessing the AVSA website. Simply put, Verizon has blocked our site for its customers, claiming a security problem. Read more about this issue on page 19.

AVSA has a new product in the store. Under the auspices of the Library Committee, a DVD titled "Perfectly Pittman" is now available. Produced by the creative **Andrea Worrell** and the technically gifted **Joe Bruns**, this program tells the wonderful story of **Hortense**

Assuming all goes well, we will have easy online registration for the 2019 Houston convention.

and Ray Pittman — their hybrids, their growing methods, their contributions to AVSA, and so much more. Everyone needs to have it.

And finally, a message you have probably heard before: AVSA is an all-volunteer-led organization. WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS. Some committees need more members. Several committees are new or newly reorganized and need new members. Please let me know if you can give a little time to your AVSA. Whether you grow one plant or hundreds, the hobby is just more fun when you are involved with other growers. Remember, Violets connect us!

Richard

Editor's Notes

By Teresa Odle - *AVM Editor*

P.O. Box 1828 • Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346

Email: editor@avsa.org

To begin, I want to let all readers of *African Violet Magazine* know how much I'm enjoying working with you to produce the magazine. I'm also truly enjoying my African violets, especially with the great advice I'm getting from the magazine, AVSA newsletters and all our experts! It's now clear to me how easy it is to become "hooked" on these fascinating and gorgeous plants.

I want to help hook more people on growing African violets. I don't have the expertise to share that many experienced growers have, but I can tap into your ideas, tips and help to encourage new hobby growers and support the efforts and passion of serious African violet growers and hybridizers.

Theme Issues

Of course, I will continue leaning on AVSA experts to make sure the magazine offers accurate and helpful information to readers at all levels of growing or showing. One way is by scheduling some "theme" issues. This issue is our first attempt; we've focused a few features and photos on Russian and Ukrainian African violet varieties.

Theme issues are not meant to exclude our outstanding columns, features and contest entries. But I'd like to focus on a topic per magazine to offer new content or delve more deeply into the problems and joys African violet growers have discussed for years. Our next theme is the gesneriads — cousins of African violets — for January/February. We'll also focus on designing with African violets next spring and on watering in a summer issue.

Having a theme can spark article ideas. Let's take designing as an example: Do you know a member of your local affiliate who consistently wins design awards? You can interview the person and submit a brief article. Do you sometimes place your plants around your home, maybe even with other houseplants? How do you resolve differences



in water, light and temperature needs between your African violets and houseplants that might help new hobby growers? Or maybe you have entered designs and won awards. Do you have tips to help others who want to enter future shows?

Finally, do you rely on certain vendors for design supplies? If they're not advertising in the magazine now, maybe they'll want to participate in our design theme issue. We always welcome new advertisers and Commercial Members.

Coming Events

To help our AVSA affiliates with their time when organizing and promoting their judged shows and sales events, I've worked with Affiliate Chairman **Jeri Anderson** and web administrator **Tom Glembocki** to streamline entry. Affiliates no longer need to duplicate submission of their events on both the website and in an email to the editor. I can use your website event form to gather information for events listed in the magazine each issue. If you only submit your event online, however, be sure to note the magazine deadlines (on the inside front cover) for coming events. If you miss the deadline, I can't guarantee your event will make it into the next issue of the magazine.

Holidays

Although retail shelves already are screaming it's Christmas time, the first week in November seems early to think about gift giving. But your Commercial Activities Committee has been hard at work gathering special offers for readers just in time for the holidays. Be sure to check out those offers and gift ideas on page 30.

Thank you to the committee! During the upcoming holidays and always, I will be awed at and thankful for all of you who volunteer locally, nationally and for the magazine.

Office Update

By Amy Carruth - AVSA Office Manager

2375 North Street • Beaumont, TX 77702

Email: avsa@earthlink.net

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer! We are definitely looking forward to cooler temps here in Texas. Most clubs are entering their busy time of year. If you are in need of supplies for your shows and sales, please allow for enough time to get your order processed and delivered in time. We still have plenty of back issues of *African Violet Magazine* available for just the cost of postage, which is \$13.65 per box. Many clubs pass these out to help promote AVSA and growing African violets. Please contact the office with any questions.

The 73rd AVSA Convention and Show will be held Sunday, May 26 through Sunday, June 2, 2019, in Houston, Texas, at the Houston Marriott Westchase. Our host this year is the Lone Star African Violet Council. Please visit <http://avsa.org/conventions2019> for more information.

If you would like to donate to the AVSA Convention Awards, please send your donations to the AVSA office: AVSA, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. Send all your suggestions to Debbie McInnis, at 3620 Eagles Trace, Floyds Knob, IN 47119 or to dkmcinnis@twc.com. You also can find a donation form on our website under the Convention tab. Thank you to everyone who has already donated!



**Please make
sure your club's
information is
up-to-date
with the AVSA
office and our
Affiliate Chair.**

The 2019 AVSA Calendar is available for purchase through our website's store. The cost is \$15. These calendars make great gifts for the holidays! We also have a new program called *Perfectly Pittman*, available on DVD as well as a Thumb drive. This program costs \$20. You can purchase these items, as well as many others, using the outside cover of this issue or online at <http://avsa.org/store>. There is now a flat rate shipping charge of \$5 on all orders, except downloads. Please contact the office with any questions.

Attention Affiliates: Please make sure your club's information is up-to-date with the AVSA office and our Affiliate Chair, Jeri Anderson. You can email any changes to avsa@earthlink.net and to twajda1@comcast.net. You also can update your information through the AVSA website <http://avsa.org/club-info>. The affiliate liability insurance renewals will be mailed in the middle of November and it is very important we have the correct information. If either your President or Treasurer do not receive a notice by the end of November, please contact the office as soon as possible.

I hope to see everyone in Houston next year.
Happy Growing!

Just in Time for the Holidays from the AVSA Store:

The **2019 AVSA Calendar**, with gorgeous photos of your favorite plants to adorn your growing space or any room. Many past issues still are available too. The 2019 calendar costs \$15.

Perfectly Pittman, featuring the work, lives, techniques and flowers of Ray and Hortense Pittman. This new popular DVD or Thumbdrive costs \$20.

See page 30 for more holiday gift ideas and special offers from participating AVSA Commercial Members.

Growing Russian and Ukrainian African Violets

By Teresa Odle • editor@avsa.org

"The hobby grower always is looking for something new and/or different," says Steve Turner, co-owner of AVSA Commercial Member Starz 'N Streps with his wife, Donna. "And the Russian and Ukrainian violets satisfy the needs of those growers quite well," he adds.

Karin Peters of College Station, Texas, has been growing Russian varieties for nearly five years, and has seen their popularity soar. "At the last convention, Russian and Ukrainian hybrids were a large percentage of the plants sold and often the first ones to run out," says Karin. A member of the marketing committee, Karin manages AVSA's Pinterest account, including a board featuring the Russian and Ukrainian varieties. She also manages a Facebook page dedicated to sharing pictures and information on the Russian hybrids.

The Turners first began growing Russian and Ukrainian hybrids in 2002 from one of the first cuttings brought to the United States by Vladimir Kalgin. By 2014, they were growing and selling almost exclusively Russian/Ukrainian hybrids. I asked Karin and the Turners about these European varieties, their availability and care.

What Makes These Violets Unique?

"The Russian and Ukrainian hybrids excel in ornate blooms in numerous colors," says Karin. The nearly unlimited choice features variety such as large pompom-shaped blooms, elaborate streaks of fantasy and even chimera-like stripes. According to the Turners, the European hybridizers "are very imaginative and are working with a wealth of genetic material." As a result, African violet blooms on the Russian/Ukrainian varieties typically are larger and can have three or four colors.

When the varieties first were introduced, the Turners said some American growers were not pleased with growing challenges associated with the foliage on some plants or bloom stalks that were not as sturdy as desired. But about five years

ago, interest picked up again after Russian hybridizers corrected these kinds of issues.



Dzorhiia (Georgia, T. Dabodian)

Busting Myths

Growers and sellers of Russian/Ukrainian varieties of African violets recognize there are some misconceptions or misinformation about growing the plants. In truth, "Russian/Ukrainian violets are neither more nor less difficult to grow than any American/Canadian variety," says Donna. Karin agrees, adding "I don't see a marked difference between foreign hybrids and our domestic hybrids."

Although some say the plants from Russia and Ukraine grow better in cooler temperatures, that is not always the case. Donna says the blooms might produce more or less color, depending on temperature. The Turners also have noticed that not many Russian plant rooms have air conditioning in summer; using A/C might affect bloom size and color. Likewise, Karin has some Russian/Ukrainian violets that seem to need less light than her other hybrids, so she places them at the ends of her stand. "However, I have a few of these hybrids that like just as much light as some of my Buckeyes," she adds.

The Turners suggest moving plants higher or lower on shelves until you learn how much light each hybrid seems to prefer. "It is a learning experience," says Steve. They also say some

plants can take up to three or four bloom cycles to reach a completely true bloom. "The fantasies also tend to produce more sports for us than they do in Russia, so we are curious if others have found this to be the case for them," says Donna.

Finally, Karin says the plants have a reputation for not being symmetrical, but it depends on the hybrid, and she has seen some that "rival the symmetry of show plants."



EK-Rok-n-Roll from E. Korshunova

Russian/Ukrainian Violet Availability

Russian violets can't really be shipped directly out of the country, but Karin said several growers in Ukraine and Poland ship them overseas to sellers who propagate and sell to U.S. growers. To overcome shipping and cost obstacles, the Turners applied for an import license, so they now can bring more varieties directly from Russia and Ukraine at a fraction of their former costs.

Now that the Turners and other vendors have more supply, it is not difficult to find most of the popular Russian or Ukrainian violets. "It might be difficult to find any one particular variety," Steve says, but he adds the large AVSA Commercial Members all have a fair selection of Russian/Ukrainian plants. The Turners caution growers about the age of the plants propagated outside their home countries. Many of the plants can arrive as small plugs and might not be true to their hybrid. Further, if you buy from a foreign site, you run the risk of your violet being confiscated by customs officials.

New Hybrids

The variety of plants to come from Europe will continue to grow. "As a whole, the Russian/Ukrainian hybridizers are young, imaginative and creative," says Donna. The Turners know of at least 50 current hybridizers, with new breeders coming forward each month. (See more about Russian/Ukrainian variety hybridizers on page 28).

You can learn more about hybrids available in the United States from Starz 'N Streps, other commercial members, Russian violet sites online and the Facebook group "Russian and Ukrainian African Violets." The Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/RUAfricanViolets/) includes a listing of foreign hybridizers and active members from overseas, along with photos and discussions. You also can find photos on the African Violet Society of America Pinterest (www.pinterest.com/AfricanVioletSocietyofAmerica) board for Russian and Ukrainian violets.

Special thanks to Karin Peters and Donna and Steve Turner. All photos courtesy of Starz 'N Streps.

What's in a Name?

For ensuring true bloom and especially for showing Russian/Ukrainian varieties of African violets, it is important to use the transliteration of the original Cyrillic name. This transliteration is taken directly from the Cyrillic letter for letter rather than simple English word translation. Some Cyrillic characters can be translated different ways, which means relying on the ALA-LC Romanization Tables from the Library of Congress, says Joe Bruns. According to Joe, however, most people who register Russian cultivars write the transliterated name on the application (for example, RS-Lesno Kruzhevo from Svetlana Repkina). A few hybridizers have assigned English names to their hybrids, and all include the hybridizer's initials (such as LE-Fandango from Elena Lebeteskaia).

Because hybridizers bring new varieties to U.S. growers, it is important to be accurate when labeling plants. Steve and Donna Turner have seen Russian/Ukrainian plants with the wrong transliteration in shows, or blooms that do not match the transliterated name. Karin Peters gives a great example of how it is important to respect the transliteration: "What if somebody loosely translated Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler into something like 'Berry Sprinkle'? You can see how this would lead to a lot of confusion," she says.



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Streptocarpus 'DS-Sophi Ruletovna'

Exhibited by: Steve Turner

Hybridized by: P. Enikeev

Registration Report

By Joe Bruns

1220 Stratford Lane • Hanover Park, IL 60133

Email: jbruns@qwip.net

Dogan Uygun – Karabaglar-Izmir, Turkey

'M. Anadolu' (11105) 06/02/2018 (D. Uygun) Semidouble lavender-pink frilled pansy/blue fantasy. Dark green, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

'M. Dirilis' (11106) 06/02/2018 (D. Uygun) Semidouble lavender-pink pansy/thin white edge. Dark green, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

'M. Sekerpare' (11107) 06/02/2018 (D. Uygun) Semidouble pink two-tone pansy/darker mottling. Light green, plain, heart-shaped. **Semiminiature trailer**

Michaela Krupova – Horni Bludovice, Czech Republic

'Lina's Purple Penny' (11108) 06/11/2018 (M. Krupova) Single-semidouble purple pansy. **Chimera variegated** light green, white and cream, pointed. **Miniature**

Kathy Hajner – Peralta, NM

'K's Freedom' (11109) 07/24/2018 (K. Hajner) Semidouble-double coral-red frilled pansy/purple fantasy, variable random white edge. Medium green, quilted, wavy, serrated. **Standard**

'K's Want Some Wine' (11110) 07/24/2018 (K. Hajner) Single-semidouble burgundy-wine large frilled star. Dark green, quilted, wavy, serrated. **Standard**

Deborah Nitz – Parkersburg, WV

'It'sDeb's Dear Lady Janice' (11111) 07/30/2018 (D. Nitz) Single white chimera wavy



star/rose-pink stripe. **Variegated** medium green and ivory, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

Natalya Bulko – St. Petersburg, Russia

'Nik-Boogie Woogie' (11112) 07/31/2018 (N. Bulko) Single chimera white-light pink heavily wavy sticktite star/white stripe. Medium-dark green, ruffled. **Standard**

'Nik-Fluttering Butterfly' (11113) 07/31/2018 (N. Bulko) Single chimera white pansy/purple stripe and band, frilled green edge. Dark green, ruffled/red back. **Standard**

'Nik-Lovestruck Heart' (11114) 07/31/2018 (N. Bulko) Single-semidouble chimera pink wavy star/purple stripe, blue fantasy. Dark green, serrated/red back. **Standard**

'Nik-Princess Anastasia' (11115) 07/31/2018 (N. Bulko) Single-semidouble chimera pink wavy large star/wide white stripe, random green edge. **Variegated** medium green and ivory, pointed. **Standard**

'Nik-Shadow Theater' (11116) 07/31/2018 (N. Bulko) Single chimera blue sticktite wavy pansy/white-green stripe. Medium green, quilted, wavy. **Standard**

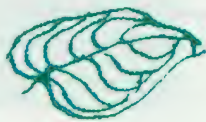
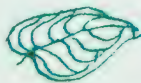
REGISTRATION CHANGE

The following have been changed at the request of the hybridizer:

'Coleman's Queen Arsinoe IV' (10987) Delete the word "sticktite" from the blossom description.

'Mezame' (10768) Delete the word "sticktite" from the blossom description.

'Tawawa' (10734) Delete the word "sticktite" from the blossom description.



Funding Solutions for AVSA Office

Because of the urgency to build our capital reserves, AVSA launched an online fundraising campaign in October

The building conditions and location of the AVSA Office in Beaumont are less than ideal, particularly after a series of storms in recent years. Funds are needed as soon as possible to enable our leadership to consider a broad range of solutions to protect the AVSA staff and to maintain operations.

OUR FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$80,000

Real estate is a fast-changing marketplace. The donations received in the next two months will determine what options the Executive Officers and Board may consider and how quickly they may be able to act.

Here's a sampling of options under consideration:

1. Keep the current AVSA Office Building and do extensive updates to make it safe and more modern.
2. Make necessary repairs to the current AVSA Office Building to make it saleable on the home real estate market. Sell it and reinvest in a new commercial property in Beaumont.
3. Sell the current building as soon as possible and rent better space while we wait for the best opportunity to reinvest.

How To Donate

Send your check made out to AVSA;
please note on the check "Funding Solutions"

Mail to the AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont TX 77702

For online payment options, click the Funding Solutions box on AVSA.org

All Donations are Tax Deductible Contributions
The African Violet Society of America is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation

Questions may be addressed to the President at txranviolets@gmail.com

Coming Events

November 1-3 – Texas

Lone Star African Violet Council (LSAVC)
Annual Convention, Judged Show and Sale
Inn of the Hills Resort and Conference Center
1001 Junction Hwy
Kerrville, TX 78028
Thursday, Nov. 1:
Commercial Sales noon - 4:30 pm
Friday, Nov. 2:
9 am - 4:30 pm; Show room 2 pm - 4:30 pm
Saturday, Nov. 3:
10 am - 4:30 pm
Show room open 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Susan Kautz: gizzmo@austin.rr.com
(512) 365-1818; www.lsavc.org

November 3 – Missouri

African Violet Club of Greater Kansas City
Annual Judged Show and Sale
Loose Park Garden Center
51st and Wornall
Kansas City, MO
9 am - 3 pm
Lynn Canning: lcanning@sbcglobal.net

November 3-4 – Wisconsin

Wisconsin Council of AVCs
Annual Judged Show and Sale
St. Jude the Apostle Church Hall
531 Knapp St., Oshkosh, WI 54902
Saturday, Nov. 3:
10 am - 4 pm
Sunday, Nov. 4:
11 am - 3 pm
Kevin Degner: kevin_degner@sbcglobal.net
(920) 426-3764

November 8-10 – Pennsylvania

Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society (MAAVS)
28th Annual Convention, Judged Show and Sale
Radisson Hotel Harrisburg
1150 Camp Hill Bypass
Camp Hill, PA 17011
Thursday, Nov 8:
Registration/Classification noon - 7 pm
Friday, Nov. 9:
Commercial Sales Room 9 am - 5 pm
Show room 1 pm - 5 pm
Saturday, Nov. 10:
Commercial Sales Room 9 am - 4 pm
Show Room 9 am - 4 pm
Sandra Pine: pines2@comcast.net; www.maavs.org

January 26, 2019 – Colorado

Rocky Mountain Streptocarpus Society
Annual Show and Sale
Tagawa Gardens
7711 South Parker Rd.
Centennial, CO 80016
9 am - 3 pm
Trudy Brekel: violetlady7@msn.com
(303) 452-9015

March 2-3 – Colorado

Rocky Mountain African Violet Council
Judged Show and Sale
Open to the public, no admission fee
Tagawa Gardens
7711 So. Parker Rd.
Centennial, CO 80016
Saturday, March 2: 9 am - 4 p.m
Sunday, March 3: 10 am to 3 pm
Trudy Brekel: violetlady7@msn.com; (303) 452-9015

May 26-June 2 – AVSA Convention and Public Sale

Houston Marriott Westchase
2900 Briarpark Dr.
Houston, TX 77042
Kathy Bell: bellkk@peoplepc.com
www.avsa.org

**Add your event to the
AVSA website form
(at www.avsa.org/events)
by the deadline for each
issue of AVM for inclusion in
Coming Events.**

In Search of New Violets

Dr. Jeff Smith - *The Indiana Academy*

Ball State University • Muncie, IN 47306

Email: JSmith4@bsu.edu

Growing African violets from seed is a tremendously satisfying experience. Whether you produce your own seed from hybridizing or purchase seed from a commercial source, nothing beats the thrill of starting with seed that looks like dust, turns into tiny green dots, and then grows into a blooming plant. Seed can germinate in as little as 10 days, but might take up to six months. I'm convinced that the "watched pot never boils" statement applies to African violet seed. You can check for days and see no signs of germination. Skip two days and the next time you look, you see lots of tiny green dots, each a newly germinated seed. There are some tips and tricks for germinating seed, such as not covering seeds with growing media and keeping the seedlings in a covered container to maintain high humidity. However, most of the questions in this column focus on the care of the tiny new seedlings.

Q: How soon can a new seedling be transplanted?

A: The better question is how good are your eyes and coordination in moving a very small plant? I've sometimes moved plants at the cotyledon stage before the first set of leaves has been produced. It is very difficult to physically handle a plant that small, but a flat stick or plastic label with a V-shaped notch cut into the end makes a good tool to move very small seedlings. Use a toothpick to disturb the growing medium and loosen the roots. Catch the cotyledons (or leaves) on either side of the V-shaped notch and gently lift the seedling out of the medium. The sides of the stick should support the weight of the plant so it can be maneuvered.

Try not to use your fingers to handle the seedling. If you must use fingers, hold the plant by a leaf or cotyledon; never hold the stem. It's very easy for fingers to crush the stem and kill the



Try not to use your fingers to handle the seedling.

seedling. Use the notched stick to lift and move the seedling into the new growing area. I sometimes prepare a hole in the medium to receive the seedling using a small round stick or pencil. Position the stem (hopefully with a bit of root) into the hole and carefully push your medium around the seedling to support the plant. A gentle spray of water or an eyedropper can be used to water the newly transplanted seedling. Be sure that the cotyledons or leaves are above the growing medium surface. You have just transplanted a new seedling! Keep the newly transplanted seedling in a high-humidity environment by using a dome or translucent cover. You'll be surprised how fast the seedling will grow in its new home.

Q: With other African violet relatives (gesneriads), growers often talk about "tickling" the roots of seedlings to speed up their growth. Does this work with African violets too?

A: You're correct that many of the other members of the gesneriad family respond well to having their roots distributed when the plants are very small. The term "tickling" has been applied to the cultural habit. Growers will deliberately disturb the roots of very small seedlings by lifting them out of the growing medium, and then replacing them using toothpicks to stir up the growing media, transfer the small plants frequently, etc. The idea is that a physical disturbance of the roots results in faster root growth, which stimulates the entire plant into more rapid growth.

The demonstrations and pictures I've seen on "tickling" the roots in other gesneriads are very convincing that this practice results in faster plant growth. Several growers swear by this practice and use it routinely in all their seed germination. I've not seen similar experiments with

African violet seedlings, but I wouldn't be surprised if a little bit of "tickling" didn't help stimulate growth. I know when I transplant very young seedlings, they seem oblivious to any root damage as long as they are kept moist and in high humidity. In a few cases, I'm pretty sure I didn't have any root at all on a seedling, yet it survived and grew normally. I don't make it a practice to "tickle" the roots routinely, but it certainly couldn't hurt to do so on very young seedlings following germination.

Q: How often should African violet seedlings be fertilized?

A: The nutritional needs of very young African violet seedlings are generally very modest and they don't require much fertilizer. The minerals available in growing media will often supply the seedlings' needs for the first few weeks. Fertilizing too soon also might stimulate the growth of algae, which can overgrow or smother the new seedlings. So, use caution and don't start too soon.

When you do start to fertilize, be sure the solution is very weak, perhaps one-eighth of the package strength recommendations. Fertilizer numbers should be lower, such as 7-7-7, and the three numbers should be about the same value. Avoid bloom-boosting fertilizer such as 15-30-15 on young plants because the growth will not be even and the plants might flower while too young. The roots of new seedlings are also very shallow, so sometimes spraying or misting young seedlings with a weak fertilizer solution will give good results. Don't use fertilizer every time you water to avoid salt build-up around the tender roots. Once the seedlings have five to eight true leaves, you can start to gradually increase the frequency and strength of your fertilizer until you reach the program used with your mature plants.

Q: Are the first blooms of a new seedling usually a good indicator of the full potential of a new cultivar?

A: Within some limitations, the first blooms of a new seedling should be a reasonable indicator of the potential of a new cultivar. Color and pattern in the blooms usually will be consistent. Petals might be fewer in number in the first bloom. That

is, a plant that is a full double might only produce semidouble flowers the first time. Flower size might be smaller than full potential, but a seedling that produces large flowers on its first bloom is likely to continue to do so as the plant matures.

One aspect of the flowers that can vary between the first and later blooms is the number of flowers per bloom stalk. A seedling that has a high number of flowers on its first bloom stalks will likely continue that pattern as the plant matures. Other seedlings might be somewhat sparing in flower count on their first bloom and improve as the plant increases in size and age. Unless the plant is suspected of being a miniature, seedlings that produce only three to four flowers on the first bloom cycle might be unlikely to improve with age. These are seedlings that might be quickly discarded unless they show other redeeming characteristics.

It is hard to discard a new seedling, but experienced hybridizers are often very pressed for growing space. If the new seedling does not show any truly outstanding qualities during the first bloom cycle, out it goes. There is likely another seedling coming up that will be more worthy of your time and space. That's harsh, but the chance that you've thrown out something truly worthy is probably not very high.

Q: When do traits such as leaf variegation show up in the seedlings?

A: In many cases, leaf variegation will show up in the seed leaves or the cotyledons immediately after germination. This is especially true for Tommie Lou and mosaic variegated seedlings. In other cases, leaf variegation might be tardy and not show until the first six to eight leaves have been produced. Because leaf variegation is sometimes temperature dependent, it might not show in the seedlings at all until they have been moved into the growing environment of more mature plants. Crown variegation usually shows up within the first six to eight leaves, but again, temperature can make a big difference on the visible expression of this trait. However, in general, if you are expecting variegation (the seed parent was variegated), you should see variegation in the seedlings at a young stage.

Going Beyond the Limits – Jere Trigg Hybridizes Big Violets

By Joyce Stork • Henderson, Nevada

A single seedpod might contain 100 or more African violet seeds. One of those seeds might have the traits that the hybridizer was seeking. Growing out all the seeds takes a lot of room, even if you are developing miniatures. Imagine how much space it takes to grow out the seedlings of giant standard plants, like those Jere Trigg is considering!



Seedlings of large violets take up plenty of space.

Jere (pronounced the same as “Jerry”) has big problems. According to Jere, “My hybridizing efforts have required some creative methods for providing the required growing space. The growing area expanded from my used-to-be dining room, to my used-to-be pool room, to my used-to-be guest bedroom. No one ever warned me that African violets are an invasive species!”

Why Hybridize

Jere isn’t just after big violets, although it seems that many of his hybrids tend to grow large. “I like to hybridize because I like the challenge of potentially producing a trait or characteristic that has never before been seen. At a minimum, I enjoy the prospect of producing improved cultivars by

combining desirable individual traits found in each of the two parents. My breeding goals vary with different crosses,” says Jere.



Red/white chimera seedling.

With a background in science and engineering, this Alabama violet grower has long been interested in hybridizing, making his first cross in 1980. Now retired, he is devoting more time to growing, hybridizing and sharing his violets with folks in his area — even finding a way to cheer on his favorite team.

“I wanted to produce a red and white bicolor with the colors of my favorite college team — the University of Alabama. The result is a red and white chimera, which I plan to register as Jere’s Roll Tide.” Jere will register the plant when the current third-generation-from-bloom-stalks bloom true.

“Another cross was designed to improve the strength of the petioles of Cosmos Legend 2, which has a tendency to ... flop over the sides of the pot as it becomes large,” he says. According to Jere, the result of the cross was a seedling with equally, if not more intense, puff-fantasy colors that easily reaches a diameter of 15 inches without the need for leaf support. Cosmos Legend 2 currently is

on its first generation from a leaf cutting. "It is showing great promise; I will probably name it Jere's War Eagle in honor of our arch-rival Auburn University (and appease the other half of the state), Jere says.



A new cross with puff-fantasy colors.

Go Big or ...

How big do Jere's hybrids get? Consider the one Jere is seen holding in the photo below. It was approximately 26 inches in diameter. How did it get so large?



Jere with a 26-inch diameter hybrid.

Because both parents were very large standards, it is to be expected that a few had the potential to become very large plants. Aside from following best growing practices, there was only one thing Jere did culturally that enabled

this hybrid and several others to reach their full potential size.

"Based on their unusually rapid growth and large leaves I realized they would have to be transferred routinely into larger and larger pots to accommodate their rapidly expanding root systems. Over a period of 20 months, I transitioned them from: a community germination nursery to 3-inch Solo cups; then to pots with diameters of 4.5 inches; then 6.5 inches; 8 inches; and finally 10 inches," says Jere. The large diameter azalea-style pot accommodated the root system required to sustain the plant's size and supported the long petioles without the need for support rings.

Having Big Fun

Jere is a member of the African Violet Society of America, but he has never entered a show. He has no plans to become a vendor or to ship violets. "I sell quite a lot of my seedlings locally to help cover some of the costs of the hobby (and create growing space,) but I have never shipped any plants for sale. I am concerned that if I were to get into mail order sales, then my hobby might become a job, and what is now fun might become work!"

Jere has a last word of encouragement for growers: "Not everyone wants a violet this big, but if they do, they shouldn't be afraid to give it a large enough pot to grow in. Move it into the next larger size before it shows signs of slowing down from being completely pot bound, and it will amaze you with its prolific growth!"



Jere holds one of his large pink seedlings.

AVSA's Best Varieties List for 2018

By Trudy Brekel

violetlady7@msn.com • (303) 452-9015

The votes are in, and we've listed below the 25 best African violet varieties for 2018. Any African violet grower can participate. This year, we had an excellent response to voting, especially from African violet growers who receive the AVSA *Growing Tips* newsletter.

The Best Varieties List helps growers learn about violet varieties that are easy and enjoyable to grow. Hybridizers with several cultivars on the Best Varieties List probably have plenty of other hybrids growers will love.

There are always two ways you can choose to vote — by filling out the form available on the AVSA website and mailing it in, or through our online voting system. Voting for favorite 2019 varieties will close July 31, 2019. Watch for more 2019 voting information in future issues of *African Violet Magazine* and *Growing Tips* and on AVSA social media sites.

Thanks to all who participated in voting this year. Here is your ranked list of Best Varieties for 2018 and their First Class descriptions.

1. **Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler** (8745) 7/27/1998 (P. Hancock) Semidouble bright pink ruffled pansy/variable raspberry fantasy; raspberry edge. Variegated dark green, cream and pink, plain, glossy/red back foliage. Large.
2. **Ness' Crinkle Blue** (8136) 1/19/1995 (D. Ness) Double dark blue star/variable thin white edge. Dark green, quilted, serrated/red back foliage. Semiminiature.
3. **Jersey Snow Flakes** (9820) 12/14/2007 (R. Kurzynski) Single-semidouble white pansy/white sparkle overlay. Variegated medium green and white, plain, quilted foliage. Standard.
4. **Picasso** (6924) 10/4/1988 (M. Tremblay) Double light blue and white/variable white fantasy. Variegated medium green, plain/silver-green back foliage. Large.
5. **Jolly Orchid** (9719) 1/15/2007 (H. Pittman) Double orchid and white pansy. Medium green, plain, quilted foliage. Miniature.
6. **Precious Red** (9724) 1/15/2007 (H. Pittman) Semidouble-double dark red pansy. Dark green, plain/red back foliage. Miniature.
7. **Buckeye Nostalgia** (10484) 1/5/2012 (P. Hancock) Semidouble pale blue ruffled pansy. Variegated medium green and cream foliage. Standard.
8. **Buckeye Seductress** (9669) 7/13/2006 (P. Hancock) Double dark lavender star/wide white band, green edge. Variegated medium green and cream, plain foliage. Large.
9. **Frozen in Time** (9167) 2/3/2003 (Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/Sorano) Single-semidouble white pansy/variable lavender tinge; green edge. Variegated light green and ivory, quilted foliage. Standard.
10. **The Alps** (7813) 10/3/1992 (K. Horikoshi/H. Sawara) Single-semidouble chimera white pansy/light blue stripe. Medium green, plain, quilted foliage. Standard.
11. **Powwow** (7708) 6/15/1992 (K. Stork) Semidouble red pansy. Variegated green and cream, plain foliage. Standard.
12. **Rob's Fuddy Duddy** (7886) 6/2/1993 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark mauve-purple sticktite pansy. Dark green, quilted foliage. Semiminiature.
13. **Blue Dragon** (9516) 12/17/2005 (P. Sorano/Lyndon Lyon Greenhouse) Double light blue large frilled star/raspberry edge. Dark green, plain/red back foliage. Large.
14. **Kentucky Gooseberries** (D. Rollins, not registered) Double white star/light pink blush. Medium green, serrated foliage. Semiminiature.
15. **Rob's Boolaroo** (8053) 3/5/1994 (R. Robinson) Semidouble light pink sticktite pansy/bright blue fantasy. Medium green, quilted foliage. Semiminiature trailer.
16. **Harbor Blue** (6174) 2/24/1986 (T. Weber) Single light blue/darker eye. Dark green, plain/red back foliage. Large.

17. **Ann** (6649) 6/1/1987 (B. Bryant) Double rose-pink frilled/two-tone center, edge. Variegated dark green, white, some pink, longifolia, quilted, cupped, glossy, ruffled foliage. Large.
18. **Rose Bouquet** (9028) 4/12/2001 (G.T. Smith) Double pink frilled star/darker eye. Mosaic variegated medium green, pink and white, plain, quilted foliage. Standard.
19. **Cirelda** (3620) 3/1/1979 (P. Tracey) Double pink two-tone. Quilted foliage. Semiminiature trailer.
20. **Edge of Darkness** (10677) 3/19/2014 (P. Sorano/Lyndon Lyon Greenhouse) Semi-double dark purple star/frilled white edge. Variegated dark green and ivory, serrated/red back foliage. Large.
21. **Tiger** (3433) 6/1/1978 (I. Fredette) Semi-double dark blue-violet. Variegated foliage. Large.
22. **Shirl's Hawaiian Lei** (9372) 9/30/2004 (S. Sanders) Single purple pansy/white eye. Variegated medium green and white, heart-shaped foliage. Miniature.
23. **Wrangler's Dixie Celebration** (4490) 6/29/1981 (W. Smith) Double pink. Variegated, quilted foliage. Large.
24. **Annabelle** (8636) 7/18/1997 (K. Stork) Double pink two-tone star. Black-green/red back foliage. Large.
25. **Goluboi Tuman** (Blue Mist) (9558) 1/17/2006 (K. Morev) Double light blue large ruffled star/white edge. Dark green, round, wavy foliage. Standard.



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler

Exhibited by: Sandra Skalski

Hybridized by: P. Hancock

Large Standard

AVSA Honor Roll of African Violets

By Trudy Brekel

(303) 452-9015 • violetlady7@msn.com

Congratulations to the winners of this year's Honor Roll. There are four plants that made the Honor Roll of African Violets this year. It is nice to have a 2018 winner in a category of standards, miniatures and trailers.

Pat Hancock had two violets added to the list this year, with Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler and Buckeye Seductress, both of which are beautiful plants. Hortense Pittman had a winner with her

Precious Red, which lives up to its name as being precious. Rob Robinson won with Rob's Boolaroo, a beautiful little trailer.

To be in the Honor Roll of African Violets, a variety must have appeared in the Best Varieties list for three consecutive years (minor editorial changes have been made on some of the cultivars for compliance with the current MVL).

1999

Milky Way Trail #7469 (J. Stahl)
Ness' Satin Rose #8144 (D. Ness)

2000

Powwow #7708 (K. Stork)
Rob's Sticky Wicket #6467 (R. Robinson)

2001

Windy Day #7719 (Stork/Boone)

2002

There were no additions to the Honor Roll of African violets

2003

Rainbow's Quiet Riot (R. Wasmund)

2004

Frozen in Time #9167 (S. Sorano)
Orchard's Bumble Magnet #8479 (R. Wilson)

2005

Rebel's Splatter Kake #8695 (R. Bann)

2006

There were no additions to the Honor Roll of African violets

2007

ACA'S Red Ember #8732 (J. Brownlie)

2008

Blue Dragon #9516
(Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/P. Sorano)

2009

Bob Serbin #8292 (J. Brownlie)

2010

There were no additions to the Honor Roll of African violets

2011

Plumberry Glow #9187
(Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/Sorano)
Aca's Red Ember (#8732) (J. Brownlie)

2012

There were no additions to the Honor Roll of African violets

2013

Harbor Blue #6174 (T. Weber)

2014

Rob's Chilly Willy #8170 (R. Robinson)
Rob's Fuddy Duddy #7886 (R. Robinson)

2015-2017

There were no additions to the Honor Roll of African violets

2018

Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler #8745 (P. Hancock)
Buckeye Seductress #9669 (P. Hancock)
Precious Red #9724 (H. Pittman)
Rob's Boolaroo #8053 (R. Robinson)

AVSA Vs. Verizon

By Richard Nicholas

After complaints from several members, AVSA has learned that anyone who is a Verizon Wireless customer is no longer able to access our website, avsa.org, on devices using Verizon for Internet access. After multiple and unsuccessful attempts by individual members to resolve the problem, I began to make inquiries. After advancing through layers of the organization, I arrived at the Verizon Executive Relations team. After their "investigation," one of their technicians concluded that there was "malicious activity" on our site and that they have blocked access for their customers. No additional information was provided despite my questions.

No other service provider has found a problem, nor does Verizon provide service other than to

wireless devices. Our initial security sweeps have found no problem. At this time, I do not anticipate any change from Verizon.

**Our initial
security
sweeps
have found
no problem.**

AVSA's web administrator, Tom Glembocki, and our Technology Committee are working on solutions. Work-arounds might include a new domain name. In the meantime, other than changing providers, Verizon Wireless customers must access avsa.org on another device. Android users can try a name changer app such as DNS Changer - Lilly, which can change the name of your service and allow access. Since I have not used such an app, I cannot endorse any particular one. AVSA will provide updates as soon as we have additional information.

Anne & Frank Tinari Endowment Fund

Janet Riemer • 256 Pennington-Harbourton Rd. • Pennington, NJ 08534
July and August 2018 • Total this period: \$372



Geneva - \$100-\$499

Libby Behnke

In memory of Bill Blankenstein



Multicolor - \$50-\$99

Columbus African Violet Society

First African Violet Society of Denton

In memory of Valencia Gilbert



Two-Tone - \$25-\$49

Leonard Re

In memory of Barbara Burde

Janice Sorensen

In memory of Margaret Schmierer

Richmond African Violet Society

In memory of Clifford Ray Doggett

Two-Tone (continued)

Bobbi Johannsen

In memory of John Cook



Thumbprint - Under \$25

Philip Stevenson

Marcia Sunderman

Louise Ozaki

In memory of Barbara Burde

Christopher J. Beney

Brent T. Johnson

Marion Gillen

Caroline Storey

Sylvia J. Row

Suet Lai Yeung Rosetta

AVSA Is on Instagram!

By Sally Wright • sallyewright@gmail.com

Social media sites focus on various uses for online sharing. Instagram is designed for sharing photos and videos from smartphones. Instagram requires a minimum of one photo or video with each post. The posts usually have captions and tags and are designed for a visual impact. Violets are the perfect photo subject!

I've been on Instagram for several years, but only started using the social media site within the past year. As I clicked "like" on cat photos and videos, I found another plant lover. I liked one of the photos this person posted and, as Instagram is inclined to do, there were more and more plants in my Instagram feed. Then one day the feed showed me a cat with a gorgeous flower... an African violet! And I liked it, so they showed me more. And more. And more...

AVSA On Instagram

I started following anyone who had African violets on their page and I soon discovered there were people around the world on this social media platform who grow our beloved plants (and their cousins!) And even though we can't speak each others' languages, we share a love in common. When I heard AVSA had a Pinterest account, I expressed on Facebook (another social media platform) that AVSA also needed an Instagram account. So, I was contacted to find out if I might be willing to start an account. After thinking about it for a few days, I agreed, and we set up the account on April 28, 2018.

On Mondays, the AVSA account posts a photo from the weekly *Growing Tips* and attaches a clip from the article, as well as a link so people can find the entire article. So far, we've talked about propagation and featured interviews with various growers. There also are posts featuring the

upcoming convention and other weekly events throughout the country. In just a few months, we had already gained 125 followers and a large portion of those followers have at least a few photos of violets.

In the future, I'm looking forward to sharing some of our history as a weekly post using bits from the old Sunset books or photos of each of the Original 10. Posts about hybridization and how we came to get the colors we now have from the Original 10 also are possibilities. The AVSA Instagram account is not meant to be a platform

for in-depth information, but there is plenty of space for people to ask questions in the form of comments. We can post information (with a photo) of affiliate events or announcements. I'd also like to spotlight other gesneriads that are featured in *African Violet Magazine*, but the primary focus will be African violets.

How Instagram Can Help

You might be amazed at the quality of photos you see on Instagram accounts, especially since they are taken primarily

with phones. Instagram includes filters, cropping and other editing features to make images more appealing. You can crop videos or use Boomerang to create a brief 10-second video that loops.

Personally, I didn't know there were things such as clubs and plant sales until I came across an Instagram listing for our local show, so talking about weekly events is a great way to connect local plant lovers. We'll also share photos of the winning plants from the annual convention and regional shows. Posting must be done from a smartphone, rather than from a computer, so be patient! You can follow accounts or make comments from a computer, but cannot

**AVSA members
can share
photos of their
prized plants on
their Instagram
accounts and
tag or mention
the AVSA
account.**

make initial posts. (I am happy to write another article on how to use Instagram for anyone who is interested.)

AVSA members can share photos of their prized plants on their Instagram accounts and tag or mention the AVSA account. As we gain followers, we can help get the word out on events, awards, membership and simple love of growing African violets.

Hashtags

A way to connect people or find photos is through hashtags. Hashtags help categorize the post and make it possible for others to easily find posts with a specific theme or content. For example, when I typed in #africanviolet, I saw there were 85,228 other posts on Instagram that were tagged with the #africanviolet hashtag. Adding the letter "s" to the hashtag (#africanviolets) shows yet another 30,748 posts. That's a lot of people photographing and talking about our plants! It's a challenge for me to come up with ways to connect with people, so I look at hashtags other people have used for inspiration. Among these are #saintpaulia, #plantsmakepeoplehappy, #africanvioletsinstagram, and even

some foreign words for our plants, such as #senpolia and #fialka, which are hashtags I have seen.

Check Out the AVSA Instagram Account

Come view (and follow) the AVSA Instagram account at: <https://www.instagram.com/african-violetsocietyofamerica/>. You don't have to be on Instagram to look or browse, but you have to be a registered user to comment or like a photo. If you have suggestions for future posts or would like to contribute any photos (either for their pure beauty, promotion of an event or for teaching), contact me. I'm excited to connect with yet more lovers of our beautiful plants through this platform! African Violets Can Link Us Together!

***Editor's Note:** AVSA wants to engage with and support all members, including those who are active online and those who are not! Social media is not a replacement for AVM or other publications and activities for members, but another way to express and enrich our love of growing African violets. So, if you want to use Instagram or already do, please follow the AVSA account.*



In Memory

Valencia Gilbert

The First African Violet Society of Denton, Texas, has lost a member and friend. Valencia, a certified licensed vocational nurse (LVN), was known for her able and caring ways. Even before she joined the club, she often would take violets to co-workers and those who could not travel.

She supported all local events and loved greeting and talking to folks about the joy of growing violets. Valencia, called the "leaf lady" by some,

loved growing plants from leaves and often would bring little babies fresh off mother leaves to share or sell. She loved to shop for violet-related items to donate to auctions and raffles to support the growing of violets.

Valencia loved her family. She often shared stories of her early years and family recipes. Her corn casserole, a family recipe, was a popular item at each pot luck lunch. Our club and many others will remember and will miss the generosity and smile of Valencia Gilbert.

A Family Portrait

By Paul Kroll

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Email: pfkroll@me.com

Occasionally in the gesneriad world, we come across a very unusual plant, one that is truly unique. *Chautemsia calcicola* is in that category. This plant is unique in that it is the only species in this genus thus far. It was discovered in Minas Gerais, Brazil. The plant was discovered growing in remnants of deciduous forests on limestone outcrops. The name of this genus (*Chautemsia*) honors Dr. Alain Chautems, curator at the Conservatoire et Jardin Botaniques de la Ville de Genève, who investigated Brazilian Gesneriaceae for more than 20 years. He deserves this homage in recognition of his important contribution to the knowledge of this family and to his deep involvement in training new researchers.

About *Chautemsia*

The plant resembles the species in the genus *Diastema* (such as *D. vexans* and *D. comiferum*) both in size of mature plant and the size of the blooms. *Chautemsia*, like *Diastema*, is rhizomatous. The green leaves are very attractive and the white blossoms add to the clean, crisp appearance of the plant.

I first saw this plant at a regional Gesneriad Society show in New Jersey several years ago. It was exhibited by Nancy Kast from Florida, who is known for her excellence in growing species plants of all genera. I asked Nancy for a start of the plant and grew it for several years. Recently, I lost my original plant because of our moving and the lack of proper care during that period. I allowed the plant to go dormant and the pot got too much water, rotting the rhizomes.



The plant was discovered growing in remnants of deciduous forests on limestone outcrops.

Sharing Plant Material

At the recent Gesneriad Society convention in Framingham, Massachusetts, there was a *Chautemsia calcicola* entered in the show! After judging, I was able to see that the plant was entered and exhibited by Nancy Kast once again. I asked Nancy for a piece of the plant and she agreed. A short time later, she came to me and said, "Take the whole plant; I have another at home." Of course, I accepted the offer and was very grateful for Nancy's generosity.

The sharing of plant material, whether an African violet leaf, a cutting of some other type of plant, a tuber, rhizome, etc., is of utmost importance. When plant material is shared, we ensure that someone is growing it and that we can get the variety back should we lose it. So many plants have been lost over the years that I have been in this hobby! I have learned to share with others, no strings attached. However, it pleases me to give back and to share something that another friend has lost, for whatever reason. I always tell my friends they should ask for what they want. If, for whatever reason, I cannot share a cutting at the time, I keep a wish list on file and will soon be able to satisfy that request.

The photograph accompanying this article was taken by Mel Grice and features the plant Nancy Kast exhibited at the recent Gesneriad Society convention show. This plant now resides in my home, on a middle shelf of a plant stand, happily growing under two T-8 bulbs. My soil is a mix of my own, containing soil, perlite, vermiculite, milled sphagnum and peat moss, along with some charcoal and lime. *Chautemsia calcicola* is quite happy, and so am I to have it back again!



Photo Credit: Mel Grice

Chautemsia calcicola

A New Gesneriad

Exhibited by: Nancy Kast

What do Hybridizers See?

By Dr. Jeff Smith • The Indiana Academy Ball State University
Muncie, IN • JSmith4@bsu.edu

One of the consistent themes in any discussion of African violet hybridizing is the need for the would-be hybridizer to carefully consider the goals of a cross. Although one can certainly hybridize without directly stating a goal, experienced hybridizers usually have particular goals in mind before they select a potential seed parent or pollen parent in making a cross. Producing new cultivars of African violets is a time-consuming process, often taking years of work and evaluation.

Hybridizers have either consciously, or perhaps unconsciously, used reoccurring goals in their programs. After many years, the plants produced by these hybridizers come to have similar types of characteristics, having been shaped by the goals and will of the hybridizer. Growers attracted to plants developed by a particular hybridizer reinforce these goals through their purchases and showing of a hybridizer's cultivars in preference to others. This is an artificial selection process, but like natural selection, changes over time accumulate and African violets evolve with time. Anyone who compares the vintage African violets to current hybrids is well aware that the plants have changed over the years. Hybridizers who develop plants with popular characteristics are selected and their plants will be the most successful over time. Plants can also be selected "against," and many cultivars, in fact most of them, will disappear or go extinct eventually.

The purpose of this article is to discuss the plants of some past, recent and current hybridizers and speculate on the hybridization goals that may have been involved in the development of their cultivars. The ideas that will be expressed are my own and are subject to interpretation. It is quite possible that the hybridizers themselves will have different opinions of what were their goals at the



time they made a particular cross. However, if the reader will indulge me in looking at broad trends or brushstrokes, I hope patterns might be detected in the work of the selected hybridizers.

Early Hybridizers

There were many prolific hybridizers in the early days of growing African violets. A few examples are Dale Eyerdom of Granger Gardens, Frank and Anne Tinari, and Lyndon Lyon. Growing conditions were among the driving forces in the plants produced by these hybridizers. In the early days, all African violets were grown under natural light. If you were a commercial grower, this meant growing your plants in greenhouse conditions. The environment in the greenhouse is considerably different from that indoors under artificial lights. Natural light is more intense; temperature is much more difficult to control tightly; and changing seasons meant that flowering and growth were uneven throughout the year. Although modern greenhouses can better regulate the growing environment, greenhouses of the 1950s to 1970s often were subject to wild changes in temperature and lighting. A cultivar had to be hardy and tolerant of extremes to be successful under these variable growing conditions. These were tough plants and vintage violets still make excellent subjects under natural light conditions in sunrooms and on window sills.

This early growing time also was an explosive period in African violet mutations. A number of new colors such as pink, white and coral were developed. Patterns such as fantasy and Geneva edges were discovered. Flowers became stick-tight, double petaled and semidouble, and variations in plant size and foliage were discovered. The buying public flocked to these new plants and hybridizers

maximized their sales by creating plants with many different combinations. It was a peak time for hybridizers to create many new cultivars.

First Class for All is a data program from AVSA that lists registered African violets. The searchable database includes the hybridizer, plant size, flower type and other traits. I researched the database to highlight some early and modern hybridizing efforts, including new Russian and Ukrainian varieties (see Box, page 28).

Dale Eyerdom

A check of entries in First class shows 93 entries of plants with "Granger's" names and 558 entries credited to hybridizer Dale Eyerdom. Some examples are Arcturus, Cameo Pink and Granger's Wonderland.

Anne and Frank Tinari

The Tinaris are credited with 270 entries in First Class. Some of their plants are Astro Blue, Lilian Jarrett Variegated, Nancy Hayes, and one of the first trailers, Star Trailer. AVSA established an endowment fund in 2006 in honor of the Tinari.

Lyndon Lyon/Paul Sorano

Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses produced some of the first double pink flowered plants such as Double Pink Cloud, Double Bountiful and Double Pink Puff. He also used the species violets to create miniature and semi-miniature trailers such as Violet Trail, Pixie Blue and Happy Trails.

Paul Sorano has continued the family business and has registered additional plants, often focusing on vibrant colors and patterns. The Lyndon Lyon family has a combined number of approximately 363 entries in First Class. Modern plants from Lyndon Lyon are still greenhouse grown, but may be supplemented with artificial

light. Modern hybrids from Lyndon Lyon Greenhouse and Paul Sorano include Crimson Ice, Frozen in Time, Live Wire and Plumberry Glow.

Modern Hybridizers

Two more recent hybridizers are Ruth Bann and Ethel Champion, both of whom had selected for excellent foliage, among other characteristics. Other modern hybridizers have introduced minis, larges and distinctive blooms and colors.

Ruth Bann

Ruth is the hybridizer behind the "Rebel" series. Ruth selected for large-growing show plants that had excellent foliage and flowers that were held well above the leaves. First Class shows 98 entries with plants such as Rebel's Splatter Kake, Rebel's Rhubarb Frost, Rebel's Frosted Snow and Rebel's Flaming Star.

Ethel Champion

Ethel Champion liked to work with interesting foliage types and miniature plant size. The crown variegation trait is so common in many of her hybrids that some growers still call this "Champion variegation." The young leaves of these plants are nongreen, often tan or yellow, and become green as the leaves mature. Some of Ethel's plants are Amethyst Sparks, Berries and Cream and Berry Splash. Ethel also worked with the mosaic variegation found by the Tinari

in Lilian Jarret Variegated and produced plants such as Lilian Sparkler and Midget Silver Fox. Ethel's plants often are miniature or small growing and have been very popular for growers attracted to the smaller sized plants.

Rob Robinson

Of course, if small African violets are your goal, the most recent prolific hybridizer of the



*Rob's Gundaroo, Hybridized by R. Robinson,
Exhibited by Pat Bowling.
Photo by Neil Lipson*

minis is Dr. Ralph (Rob) Robinson. Rob has specialized in miniature and semiminature African violets with nearly every type of foliage, flower type and color, such as Rob's Combustible Pigeon, Rob's Heat Wave and Rob's Cool Fruit. He also has developed many miniature trailing cultivars such as Rob's Lili Pili and Rob's Boolaroo. Rob's plants are grown under lights and are selected for show qualities in foliage and bloom. Rob's plants are frequently on the awards table at many African violet shows. First Class shows 247 entries for Rob Robinson.

Olive Ma Robinson

Not to be outdone, Rob's wife Olive has become a well-known hybridizer in her own right, with 81 entries in First Class. Olive's plants usually are standards with excellent show foliage, distinctive blooms and interesting colors. Some of her plants are Ma's Pillow Talk, Ma's Silk Flower and the very distinctively colored Ma's Ching Dynasty. The latter plant often shows strong amounts of yellow, one of the newest and rarest colors in African violets.

George McDonald

If miniature plants with unusual colors or rare foliage types are your specialty, hybridizer George McDonald will be a person of interest. For a long time, George has sought to develop plants with clear coral and coral red colors. His selection process has eliminated the bluing factor trait that often muddled and dulled coral and coral red colors, resulting in miniatures with bright glowing colors. Examples are Mac's Scorching Sun, Mac's Brilliant Bauble and Mac's Coral Carillon. George also has tried for dark, nearly black flower color. Some of these plants are Mac's Black Pearl and Dark Night of the Soul. George also has experimented with unique foliage traits such as mosaic foliage in Mac's Just Jeff and clackamas foliage in Mac's Walkabout Uluru.

George McDonald has a very interesting way of hybridizing compared to many. He has limited shelf space for new seedlings and often grows out only 10 to 12 plants from a cross. Because of these small numbers, George frequently crosses two similar plants together so there is less variation in the

offspring. His goal is to improve the plants, but not at the expense of losing traits such as coral red flower color. By breeding "like to like," he keeps certain traits fixed while allowing some improvement in other traits. George grows under artificial lights and his plants are well adapted to these growing conditions. First Class shows 61 entries for George McDonald.

Pat Hancock

If growing large show plants with outstanding foliage is your goal, Pat Hancock's "Buckeye" series will be of interest. The Buckeye series, named after Pat's home state of Ohio, has been selected for many generations for large showy foliage. Many cultivars are variegated and several have distinctive flowers and a large flower display. Examples are Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler, Buckeye Country Lilacs and Buckeye Nocturne. Pat has 215 entries in First Class. Her plants are selected for growing under artificial lights and a show plant will take about a year to grow from a leaf cutting to full size.

Focus on Unusual Traits

Sometimes, hybridizers select and focus on an unusual trait such as bustled foliage or wasp-shaped blooms. These traits have been known since the 1950s when hybridizer **Jimmy Dates** produced plants such as Celery, Nymph Fly and Pink Fly. Jimmy's plants were greenhouse or windowsill grown and he has 41 entries in First Class. The bustled foliage trait was strange, and very difficult to shape for show, but the plants always seemed to attract a certain following for those who craved the "unusual." For many decades, these plants were just a curiosity and were not commonly seen.

David Senk

Two modern hybridizers who have worked with bustled foliage, wasp flowers or other unusual traits are David Senk and Jeff Jackson. David has combined a number of highly unusual genetic traits together, such as double girl foliage in Senk's Bad Girl, extreme miniature size as in Senk's Fruit Fly, and trailing variegated bustled foliage in Senk's Merlot.

David also has experimented with bell-shaped flowers as in Senk's Big Bell and upright growing habit in Senk's Beanstalk. David has 37 entries in First Class.

Jeff Jackson

Jeff Jackson has produced plants under the "Imp's" series name. Several of the Imp's plants have very nice bustled foliage and/or wasp blooms, but he has not yet registered many of his creations.

Most Entries

Two hybridizers with the largest number of entries in First Class are total contrasts to one another. These are the commercial company Optimara of the Holtkamp family and the noncommercial, or private, hybridizer Hortense Pittman.

Optimara

Optimara is one of the largest growers of commercially produced African violets in the world. They have produced many different series of violets during the years and have 393 entries in First Class. Optimara plants are greenhouse grown, with tight control over the growing conditions and a large degree of mechanization in the production of the plants. Optimara plants have been bred for commercial sale. They usually are compact growers (more plants per bench space), fast growers (quicker crop maturation), and have single blooms (faster flower production) and solid green leaves instead of variegated leaves (faster plant growth and maturation). The key to making a profit is to produce as many plants as possible as quickly as possible. The Optimara breeding program selects for traits that improve their profit and reduce their overhead.

Optimara knows that plants with good colors and patterns are attractive to a buying public. Flower colors often are selected to look bright under indoor lighting of stores, hence a predominance of blues, whites and pinks in their flower colors. Their "Artiste's Palette" series introduced the highly

popular thumbprint flower pattern with a spot of color on the center of the petals. Their "myViolet" series introduced flowers with colored centers and wide white edges. Their "Indian Summer" series includes miniature African violets in a variety of flower colors. One of their latest releases is the "LooXo" series. The plants in this series do not have the yellow stamens in the center of the flower. One advantage to this series is that these plants should avoid infestation by thrips, which are attracted to the yellow stamens and ruin the presentation and lifespan of the flowers during sale. The flowers are still colorful, thanks to their petals, and this series should be a strong commercial success for Optimara.

If you can visualize a combination of plant size, foliage, flower type and colors, a careful selection process often can produce that goal.

Hortense Pittman

Hortense Pittman is a private hybridizer; she and her husband have been producing African violet cultivars for many years. Their plants include the "Teen" series, the "Sassy" series, and most recently, the "Jolly" series. The Pittmans appear to have a record in First Class with 729 entries. The Pittman plants are grown under lights. The "Jolly" series, such as Jolly Cutie Pie,

Jolly Joy and Jolly Mars, are small growing miniatures with excellent flower counts. Plants of this series are doing very well in shows and are gaining in popularity. Over the long career of Hortense Pittman, many of her plants have been show winners.

In summary, the goals of hybridizers and what they see in plants during their selection process have been extremely important driving forces in shaping the diversity of African violets. If you can visualize a combination of plant size, foliage, and flower type and colors, a careful selection process often can produce that goal. We owe a great deal of thanks to the visionary work of our past, recent and current hybridizers in producing such a wide and diverse range of African violets for our enjoyment. If you have plants that you can "see" in your imagination, learn how to hybridize, create your own cultivars and join the fun!

Russian and Ukrainian Hybrids • Dr. Jeff Smith

The area where I've received the most questions about hybridizing lately concerns what is going on in Russia and Ukraine. There has been a major burst of hybridizing from these countries and the release of many new and different hybrids. Some of the plants are so unique that comments have been made about the possible use of chemical mutagens, hormones or other unusual methods in their creation. Although I have only had indirect communication with these hybridizers, I have not seen anything in their cultivars that couldn't be easily explained by the type of selection programs and goals used by any other hybridizer. So, what traits are these hybridizers using in their selection?

My understanding is that many of the growers in Russia and Ukraine grow their plants under natural light conditions in their apartments or homes. Many are using window sills where the temperatures are cooler and more likely to shift between day and night. The stated reason for growing African violets in these countries is for the flowers. Growers in Russia and Ukraine want color in their homes. The larger, more brightly colored and bigger the mass of flowers, the more popular the cultivar. Selection for these traits in the flowers appears to be the best explanation for the unique flowers that characterize the cultivars of the Russian and Ukrainian hybridizers. Other hybridizers could certainly duplicate these results using similar hybridizing goals and selection methods.

In fact, it appears that Russian and Ukrainian hybrids are being used in the programs of

other hybridizers. The goal of these programs is to combine the spectacular flowers of the Russian/Ukrainian hybrids with the foliage of the American hybrids. The emphasis on foliage in the African Violet Society of America shows has shaped the selection of foliage over the years. The foliage of Pat Hancock's "Buckeye" series is an excellent example. Since the selection emphasis in Russia and Ukraine is on flowers, not foliage, the resulting hybrids do not always have good "show foliage." Thus, these hybrids have been less successful in AVSA shows where the point value in

scoring is heavy on foliage perfection. The efforts of many hybridizers now are aimed at solving that problem by putting the outstanding Russian/Ukrainian flowers on American show foliage.

There are many active Russian and Ukrainian hybridizers who are registering their

plants in First Class. Some of these are: **Evgenii Arkhipov** (Moscow, Russia) – AE-Deimos Elite, AE-It's Raining and AE-Krasna Devitsa; **Elena Korshunova** (Moscow, Russia) – EK-Alisaka, EK-Braziliskii Topaz and EK-Izumrednoe Kruzhevo; **Elena Lebetskaia** (Vinnytsia, Ukraine) – LE-Aisedora, LE-Eliseiskie Polia and LE-Esmeralda; **Galina Lazarenko** (Klin, Russia) – LiK-Balaia Kolybel, LiK-Kralechka and LiK-Shelest Voln; **Natal'ia Skorniakova** (Kursk, Russia) – RM-Blondinochka and RM-Lublina; and **Svetlana Repkina** (Lugansk, Ukraine) – RS-Akvamarin, RS-Alye Parusa and RS-Lesno Kruzhevo. Please check First Class for descriptions of these Russian and Ukrainian hybrids.



LE-Kleopatra from E. Lebetskaia.

Photo courtesy of Starz 'N Streps

AE-Egorka Molodets

Exhibited by:

Alla Kotova

Hybridized by:

E. Arkhipov

Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



SK-Pered Grozoi

Exhibited by:

Sandra Skalski

Hybridized by:

Kuznetsov

Semiminiature

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

2018 HOLIDAY SPECIALS

AVSA Commercial Committee

AVSA Commercial Members are happy to offer the following holiday specials to you as gifts for yourself or to give to a friend or relative. They are listed here by state. Please note carefully the

seller's contact information, hours and terms of the special offers.

Thank you to all AVSA Commercial Members participating. Have a happy holiday season!

GEORGIA

Mrs Strep Streps

Kathy Spissman
4086 Brownlee Drive
Tucker, GA 30084
(770) 939-5289
E-mail: mrsstrepstreps@comcast.net

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10 each, 2 1/4, 2 3/4, 3, 3 1/2, 4 Azalea
Plus (2) 5" bulb pan pots & 50
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\$8 plus \$8 shipping

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100 pots of 6 sizes – pick how many of
each size to total 100 (2 1/4, 2 3/4, 3,
3 1/2, 4 Azalea [shorter] or 4 standard
[taller] & 100 3" plant stakes)
\$12 plus \$10 shipping

Offer No. 3 – 40 5" Green Bulb Pan Pots &

40 3" plant stakes
\$16 plus \$12 shipping

Offer No. 4 – Buy All 3 Pot Offers

Shipped to same address –
take an additional 10% off
total price of all three.
Offers expire December 31, 2018.
(all pots are terracotta color except
the 3 1/2, which are black)
Call or email with any questions.

OHIO

VioletSupply.com

Jeff Kenyon
354 N. Lake Street
Madison, OH 44057
(440) 625-2444
E-mail: jen@violetsupply.com
<https://www.violetsupply.com/>

Holiday Gift-Giving Offers:

Offer No. 1 – A 6" Ceramic Self-watering Pot,
an 8-quart bag of Arcadia African violet mix, a
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Blossom Booster fertilizer for \$39.95 + shipping.

Offer No. 2 – A 4" Oyama pot, an 8-quart bag
of Arcadia African violet mix and an 8 oz,
Jack's Classic Blossom Booster fertilizer for
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No. 1 and offer No. 2 expire December 31, 2018.

Offer No. 3 – Gift certificates.

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10% off orders over \$25 (excluding shipping)
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One discount per person. Offer expires
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**If you're traveling over the holidays, all the above
vendors accept visitors, but please call for an appointment.**

“And the winners are ...”

By Mary Corondan

434 Plumwood Way • Fairview, TX 75069

Email: mcorondan@yahoo.com

SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY OF LONG ISLAND, NY – Winners:

Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Donna's Sunset, Taffeta Blue; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jolly Fire, Irish Angel, Irish Flirt; Best Species Collection: S. 5f clone *orbicularis* var. *purpurea*, S. 5b clone *confusa* Mather E, S. 5c1 clone *tongwensis*; Best in Show/Best Standard: Harbor Blue; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Mister Sneezy; Best Miniature: Pearly Buttons; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Best Species: S. 5f clone *orbicularis* var. *purpurea*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Joseph Palagonia**. Best Gesneriad: *Primulina* 'Loki', **Edward Bradford**. Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Claire Schirtzer**.

SWEET WATER AVS, NY – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Cajun's Ethereal Fairy, Cajun's Dixie Pride, Donna's Spring Meadow; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cupid's Jewel, Irish Angel, Jolly Devil; Best Standard: Cajun's Dixie Pride; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Lucky Stripe'; Best Design, **Carolyn Klein**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Neon Fireflies, Unsung Heroes, ShaZam; Best AVSA



Mini/Semi Collection: Jolly Coral, Irish Angel, Jolly Texan; Best Semiminiature: Jolly Texan; Best Species: S. 5b clone *confusa* Mather; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jeanette Haynal**. Design Sweepstakes, **Marilyn Heinrich**.

SOCIÉTÉ DES SAINTPAULIA DE MONTRÉAL, QUEBEC – Winners:

Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara myDelight, Optimara Yellowstone, Rhapsodie Cora; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Morgan's Sumira, Optimara Little Moonstone, Planet Kid; Best Semiminiature: Morgan's Haywire; Best Miniature: Morgan's Sumira; Best Trailer: Keshia, **Annie Simard**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Happy Harold, Optimara Hawaii II, Jersey Snow Flakes; Best Species: S. 5c1 cl. House of Amani, **Pierre LaForest**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Love Bite, Optimara Little Crystal, Shirl's Red Sky; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Harlequin Lace,' **Marie Gagnon**. Best Design, **Danielle Gélinas**. Horticulture Sweepstakes (tie), **Annie Simard & Pierre Laforest**. Design Sweepstakes, **Véronique Clabots**.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND

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The Violet Network

By Jennie Lawrence

Laramie, Wyoming

Email: missjennae@yahoo.com

We all know how easy it is to get sucked in by something we see on the Internet. Most of the time, it is something like a post on Facebook or other social media sites. As I was researching this issue's column, I found myself completely immersed in the Biodiversity Heritage Library website.

A quote on the site's home page reads, "Inspiring discovery through free access to biodiversity knowledge." This site makes biodiversity literature available to the world.

One of the first links to catch my eye was the one for Color Our Collections. These are coloring pages that anyone can download. Each page has a thumbnail of the original image that was used to reproduce the coloring page. A minimum amount of information is presented with the original image, but you can click on a link to the book from which the image came.

Searching for Violets

I then started searching specifically for African violets, using the search box found in the center of the home page, and later, in the upper right corner for more specific searches. I had the option of searching the catalog and full text. I clicked on full text.

First, a list of many issues of *African Violet Magazine* came up. In addition, there were pages of literature listed in the search, so I clicked on page 10 and found the 1912 *South African Journal of Science*. This led me to do a search inside of the journal. I again typed in African violet for my search and found this was not very handy. Any article with the words "African" or "violet" came up. These included one about the ultraviolet hydrolysis of sugar, and another on South African meteorology.

I returned to the literature list and found a link to "Catalogue of the African Plants" that looked interesting. I noted that scientific names were used, so I explored using *Saintpaulia ionantha*. While I did



not find anything, I will definitely be exploring this book in the future. The actual volume was published in 1896 and is in the collection of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library at the New York Botanical Gardens.

Catalog "Bargains"

Next, it was back to the search bar, this time using *Saintpaulia ionantha* as my subject of interest. I randomly chose to look at page six of the literature list. The word "catalogue" caught my eye. I clicked on a link titled General Catalogue: 1912. I scrolled through the pages, finding that the plant names were more or less in alphabetical order. I found *Saintpaulia* on page 13. When I clicked on the name, it took me to a list of vendor catalogs. I found a catalog for Joseph Breck and Sons. This is the same company that still sells beautiful garden bulbs today. The company has been in existence since 1818. In the early 1900s, Joseph Breck and Sons sold African violets using the scientific nomenclature, and described them as a plant with "fleshy, hairy leaves. Dark blue flowers." The cost ranged from 35 cents to \$1.

I then found a wholesale catalog of the American Bulb Company from 1898. Their listing read, "SAINTPAULIA IONANTHA (The African Violet), a valuable winter-flowering greenhouse plant which has become very popular with florists. The beautiful blue flowers, very much resembling a single Violet, are produced in great profusion on slender stems. Its long blooming character especially recommends it as a florist's plant." A dozen plants in two-inch pots cost 75 cents in 1898, and 100 plants cost \$5. Three-inch pots cost \$1.25 per dozen, and \$8 per 100.

The same catalog listed "Saintpaulia Ionantha Rubra – A new variety, introduced last year, producing flowers of deep lilac-red. Awarded many first prizes." In this case, two-inch pots were \$1 per dozen, and \$6 for 100. Three-inch pots were \$1.50

per dozen, and \$10 per 100. Then, as now, the new and unusual were higher priced. Both catalogs were contributed to the institute by the United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Library.

One of the catalogs I found while exploring had lovely pen and ink renderings of many plants,

including the African violet. My notes do not say what catalog this was, however.

I did not get any farther in my exploration of this site. However, if you want to while away a few hours on a snowy, Saturday afternoon, this is the place to go. It can be found at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.

Meet the AVM Editorial Board

The Editorial Board is a new AVSA committee of members with extensive violet growing and publishing experience. Committee Members are:

**Carolee Carter Mel Grice Winston Goretsky
Maureen Pratt Bob Clark Paul Kroll, Chair**



Paul Kroll, Chair

Paul Kroll has been growing African violets since 1957. He also grows many gesneriads. Paul currently is a Master Judge for AVSA and the Gesneriad Society. He often teaches judging schools for both groups. Paul also is a licensed poultry judge for the American Poultry Association and the American Bantam Association and has been judging poultry since 1976. He and his wife, Judy, have "recently downsized and are enjoying apartment living with three light stands as opposed to the seven we had for so many years." Paul lives in Lancaster, N.Y. He has been particularly helpful during the transition in AVM editors.



Maureen Pratt

Maureen is a composer, vocalist, speaker and the author of eight books and a syndicated column. Maureen says, "growing African violets and other gesneriads is a perfect complement to the creative process of writing – nothing like having beautiful plants nearby to inspire words

In the next few issues, we will introduce members of the Editorial Board. Please feel free to contact any of the members (or the editor) with ideas or concerns about *African Violet Magazine*.

and music!" Although she has grown African violets for many years, Maureen began showing and judging relatively recently. These activities helped her get to know local affiliates and national AVSA organization, which led to lending her skills to the Editorial Board. "I especially enjoy working with my fellow EB members — a terrific and talented group! — and look forward to helping Teresa fashion an AVM that just keeps getting better!"



Mel Grice

Mel Grice has been a member of the AVSA and the Gesneriad Society since the 1970s. "I have been growing African violets since I was 10 years old," says Mel. He is active in several local clubs (African Violet society of Dayton, Ohio, and Cincinnati African Violet Society) and is editor of the Ohio State African Violet Society newsletter (The Violet Connection). Mel serves as an AVSA judge and teacher and is a member of the Ohio State Judges Council, in addition to other roles. In his little spare time as a retiree, Mel also serves as "personal valet to three cats."

Top 10 Misconceptions of Growing African Violets

In 34 years of growing African violets, I have heard many pieces of advice on what to do and what NOT to do with African violets. A lot of this advice was wrong, and a lot was a judgment call. I am going to give you my opinion about what I have learned from the real experts.

So, here are the top **misconceptions** about growing African violets and why the ideas no longer are true:

1. You Must Sterilize Your Soil-less Mix

With today's soils, especially those treated with *Mycorrhizae* fungi, there is no need to sterilize. In fact, sterilization will kill the beneficial bacteria that you need. Back in the days when Pauline Bartholomew wrote *Growing To Show*, she discussed sterilization vs. pasteurization, and chose the latter. However, times have changed, and there is little documentation that pasteurization actually is necessary to rid soil-less mixes of pests and pathogens.

2. You Can Control Thrips

I'm sorry, but you **cannot** control thrips. Trying to do so will create "super thrips" that become immune to every insecticide and ultimately will destroy your collection. Thrips **can** be stopped, and I've written four articles on how to achieve this. You just need to know the best method and stick with it. (Check for these past articles on avsa.org. Click on the "Magazine" tab and scroll down to the online *African Violet Magazine* index to find articles by the author's last name or title.)

3. INSV Lasts Forever and the Plant Can Live Forever

I have spoken to quite a few experts about impatiens necrotic spot virus (INSV). Many of them said almost all plants will die within a couple of years, but one person said an infected plant can hang around for longer. I've heard from

many growers that the plants look much worse during the summer, and according to one of the top commercial growers, "if it doesn't look right, toss it out."

I have heard about desperate measures growers have used to save a rare plant by doing this or that, including one expert grower's advice to grow the violet at a high temperature and then start a new plant from the new growth. I never tried that method, because I have always been able to find a "backup" plant from

someone. If it's a chimera and it is rare, then you need to bite the bullet and toss it. Hopefully, you were generous enough when you first got the plant to give some to friends. I have many "backup plant" friends I can rely on. One of these friends and I have even taken turns killing a plant, and then requesting the backup. However, if both of us lose the plant at the same time, it's "adios amigo."

One chimera I grew, Ma's Goodnight Kiss, was a stunner. However, the plant started to get brown edges, so I started a new sucker to grow it again. Well, that sucker grew into a plant that had the same problem. However, the new plant did not have the brown leaf edge when I moved it under available light instead of the light stands. I never

Once you know
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figured out what was going on, and I decided to toss it too. If anyone else had this problem with this chimera, give me a buzz. See the before and after images below.



Ma's Goodnight Kiss before.



Ma's Goodnight Kiss after, with brown edges.

I never did figure out whether the problem was INSV or something else, but I didn't have time for another academic exercise to determine what was happening.

4. Chimeras And Pinwheels Are Always The Same

I still hear this after 34 years of growing. Some people assume that chimeras and pinwheels are identical. Well, mostly they are, but not always. Yes, 99 percent of pinwheels are chimeras, but there are a few (about five or six) that are not. Likewise, some violets are pinwheels, but are not

chimeras (they can be grown from leaves), and there are leaf chimeras that are not pinwheels that can be grown only from suckers.

5. Thrips Can Hide for Months

For the vast majority of growers, if you disbud for two months and get every last bud off, the thrips will starve to death. I have heard of some unlucky growers who had thrips last longer, but when I dug into it, they really didn't get all the buds; they all missed one or two buds, and that's all it takes for the thrips to survive. Once you know how to kill thrips, then they're gone, unless you bring an infected plant back into the collection.

6. There Is One Best African Violet Soil-less Mix

Any of the commercial growers, especially African violet commercial growers, have really good soil-less mixes. Some large chains make the mixes in bags and ship them to local soil distributors. I asked some friends to bring this brand of soil to nationals and compared them to each other. I found huge differences from one sample to another, including in pH level.

7. More Fertilizer Is Better

No, more fertilizer is not better. I was shocked to hear that most growers, including myself, tend to overfertilize. I always used one-fourth teaspoon per gallon. Then, I met Steve Gonzalez at a seminar he gave at the AVSA Nationals, and he mentioned that almost everyone does overfertilize. I just couldn't understand why many of my variegated violets were solid green, and yes, reducing fertilizer solved the problem. To improve things more with the variegated violets like "Ann," I would use one-eighth teaspoon of blooming fertilizer, which was a little lower in nitrogen. That move dramatically improved variegation.

When I repot, I personally wait a few weeks until I use fertilized soil, but that is my preference. One soil in particular that is really packed with fertilizers is Organic Mechanics, and I have known growers who have "washed" the soil. Do not do this overaggressively; a light rinse is enough.

8. You Only Need to Repot Once A Year

You really need to repot on a regular schedule, like every 90 days, groom the plants, and remove the outer row of leaves. Look at the symmetry, and over time, you will see the triangular pattern needed to do the job. This is more of an art than a particular process, and eventually you will see the plant's pattern in leaves and can then "guide" the plant into the correct symmetry.

Repotting is the time to inspect the soil for soil mealy bugs, and if you discover any, use imidacloprid liquid diluted at one-half ounce per gallon if you top water and one-fourth ounce per gallon if you wick. Marathon granules are 99 percent effective, but there will be gaps in the soil that will not be touched by it. If these remaining 1 percent of bugs survive, you will have major trouble getting rid of them

9. Repotting to A Big Pot

I once had the brilliant idea of repotting a plant to a pot that was two sizes larger to save time in my repotting schedule. This was a really bad idea. The plant stopped growing, and all the energy went into making the roots instead of the leaves and blooms. If you want to "store" the plant when you're overstocked, I have known growers to use this method, but the plant will sit there for a long time before you see any growth at all.

10. Wicking Solves All Your Problems

Wicking does not necessarily solve all your problems. Wicking will provide constant moisture for your plants, and it is great when you're away for a week. However, if you've ever had mealy bugs or have overfertilized, wicking requires you to do some fine-tuning. One positive of wicking is that the wells will show mealie bugs, immediately exposing this problem for early treatment.

However, with wicking, you need to reduce your fertilizer, usually by half. Another concern is use of insecticides, which means if you drench, you need to remove it from the wick, drench and let it stop dripping, and then return the plant back to its individual well. I avoid a common well that can spread all kinds of problems and also prevents you from "dialing in" the fertilizer for that particular plant. This is pushing the boundaries of care, and this level of expertise can take years to learn.

Finally, it is always better to group your plants with respect to watering, and even growing. I sometimes keep a dome and group certain plants, especially for sinningias and other plants that require less watering.

I would like to thank Carolee Carter for her technical and proofreading assistance.

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Society Awards Committee Needs Your Nominees

By Susan Hill - Awards Chair
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(785) 208-0101 • skhill@ruraltel.net

Each year at this time, we ask AVSA members to nominate individuals who generously give of themselves to promote their clubs and AVSA.

We rely on you, our members, to let us know of deserving nominees, including descriptions of their accomplishments, for AVSA Society Awards. I must receive these nominations by **December 1, 2018**, for the 2019 AVSA Convention in Houston, Texas. Your nomination is valid for three years, after which you can renominate the same person. The Society Awards Committee and the Executive Committee will determine the recipients of these awards in January 2019. The following is a brief description of each of the AVSA Society Awards:

Hudson Memorial Award: Provided by the Mabel and Glenn Hudson Memorial Fund (not AVSA) for excellence in affiliate (club) leadership. Affiliate secretaries (and other experienced officers) need to submit names and activities for outstanding leaders of clubs affiliated with AVSA. The form for this award can be found and submitted on the AVSA website.

Meritorious Service Award: Awarded to individuals for some special service to AVSA (as a certificate).

Honorary One-Year Membership: Awarded for outstanding contributions to AVSA. Required for most other recognition awards (a certificate plus one-year membership).

Continuing Service Award: Awarded for continued outstanding service to AVSA (a certificate). Nominee must first have received the Honorary One-Year Membership.

Honorary Life Membership: Always received by the outgoing AVSA President. In alternate years, it may be awarded to a worthy nominee who has also been a long-time AVSA

member (a certificate, a gold pin, an ID card). This is not to be confused with a "Life Membership." (An individual can purchase a "Life Membership." You cannot buy an Honorary Life Membership.)

Distinguished Service Certificate: Awarded as the highest service award that AVSA may bestow (a certificate). Nominee must first have received the Honorary One-Year Membership and the Honorary Life Membership.

Hall of Fame Award: AVSA has established the Hall of Fame Award as the most prestigious award to recognize those individuals who have made unique and long-standing impact on the history of the Society.

Bronze Medal for Horticultural or Scientific Achievement: AVSA's highest award for both scientific and/or horticultural contributions. The nominee is not required to be an AVSA member (a certificate and a plaque with an AVSA medallion.) The nominee is **not** required to be a **hybridizer**, in accordance with the current AVSA Policies and Procedures Manual.

When You Nominate

Please remember that confidentiality is required. Please do not discuss your nomination with the person you are recommending as a nominee.

Previous recipients of these Society Awards may be found on the website at www.avsa.org under "members."

Our AVSA Society Awards Committee members are: Doris Brownlie, Ontario, Canada; Kevin Degner, WI; Randy Deutsch, SD; Susan Hill, KS; Dolores Gibbs, TX; Mel Grice, OH; Kathy Lahti, MN; Ruth Loomis, AZ; Dr. Bill Price, British Columbia, Canada; Leonard Re, CA; Edna Rourke, CT; Dr. Jeff Smith, IN; Pat Sutton, OK.

Green, Black and Terra Cotta: The New White?

By Glenda Williams

McDade, Texas • ambrosiaviolets@gmail.com

My, how time changes things. How many affiliates out there still have a “white pot rule” in your show schedule? If you don’t, then your affiliate is ahead of the game and you can read this article for historical curiosity. If you do, then this article might be of keen interest to you.

Let’s start with a few questions. ...How long has it been since you ordered new white plant pots? Have you noticed they are becoming a scarce and more expensive commodity? How many white pots do you have? Where did you purchase them? What did they cost? How many did you buy? What condition are they in? What are your favorite sizes?

Limited Supply

I am a new AVSA Commercial Member near Austin, Texas, who opened my business in early 2017 with a goal to sell African violet plants and supplies. After spending the past year researching plastic pot wholesale companies where I can buy inventory, I must sadly report there are significantly fewer small plastics manufacturers in business today. I found only two companies that produced a very limited supply of white pots. Many companies were bought out by larger conglomerates. These conglomerates restructured and re-engineered to streamline for efficiencies and economics. Unfortunately, many of our favorite white pot molds were lost in the process. Companies no longer keep product inventories ready to sell unless they are a popular size and color (for example, four-inch green azalea pots). It is now virtually impossible to find any company that will make a special white pot production run, no matter the

size. Sadly, white has now become a “specialty product,” more expensive to produce than color.

To make a run of special white pots, machinery must shut down and molds be thoroughly cleaned to remove all impurities (white is a “pure” color). Every minute machinery is down costs the company lots of money. A block of pure white plastic (a very large and expensive block) is put into a machine and injected into the molds. An entire block is used for a full production run.

Afterward, machines are shut down for cleaning — again, costing more money — and new colors are put into the machines and production begins again. Depending upon (single) pot size, a production run is literally tens of thousands of pots. In many cases, the company will sell only by the pallet, which is not economical for small profile vendors like me. For the hobby African violet grower, this is way too many pots to use — even in a lifetime. This leaves supply vendors

like me trying to guess what size pots the market needs and what they can afford to buy for resale.

**I am sad
to break the
bad news,
but the era of
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rule might
have finally
reached an end.**

Greening of Pots

Another problem is pots are becoming thinner and easier to flex or bend. Apparently, the push for a “greener” environment is directly affecting our plastics manufacturers. They are now required to use plastic material that biodegrades at a faster pace. Our pots now should break down faster when disposed at landfills. This breakdown also will happen faster if your pots are stored in the light. Just remember to store your pots as far away from light as possible when not in use to maximize their lifecycle.

White Pot Rule

Back to the original question or problem – the white pot rule. I am sad to break the bad news, but the era of the white pot rule might have finally reached an end. Alas, it was a good run while it lasted. But maybe now is the time to change show schedules to incorporate a new, updated look on our show tables. Does this now mean green, black and terra cotta colors have become the new white?

An easy solution to this problem is to write your show schedule to allow for slip potting different colors. This way, exhibitors can grow and show in green, black or terra cotta colored pots. For affiliates who still insist on the white pot rule, keep the white pot rule while allowing exhibitors to slip a different color pot into those precious white pots. Here is some sample language you can use:

"For uniformity, all plants must be slip potted into clean pots of same size or just a fraction larger-sized pot, in colors limited to white, black, green, or terra cotta. Bottom of the inner pot must be covered with plastic or foil to prevent leaks onto display table. Inner pot may be of any color and may extend above rim of outside pot. Self-watering pots such as Moist-Rite and Oyama are permitted but must be white or brown. They will not be slip potted. No flared top pots, leaf supports, or collars are permitted."

In this example, the schedule now allows for a green, black or terra cotta colored pot to be slip potted into any color pot — including a white pot. BINGO! Problem solved! Just make sure to define a reasonable size difference that is close. For example, if the outside pot is 3 inches, the inside pot should be at least 2.75 inches to keep the two pots as close to the same size as possible. The

inner pot might still extend above the outside rim of the outside pot. Just be sure your schedule requires any difference to be slight, not overexaggerated, nor too obvious. If your affiliate is still insistent on using a single color for consistency, please consider using either green, black or terra cotta.



Various colors of pots can be slip potted into white ones.

Rules Have Changed

In addition to my extensive vendor research, I had multiple conversations with Richard Nicholas, AVSA President, and Bill Foster, Judge's Chair, to obtain their invaluable perspectives. Both assured me the white pot rule is a nonissue, since AVSA and many affiliates have already made rule changes to allow for other pot colors and judges will follow an approved schedule. This is great news for membership because we can now refocus on growing rather than trying to satisfy a soon-to-be-obsolete white pot rule. I am now happy to report my affiliate updated our schedule last year to remove the white pot rule. Maybe now it's time to lay this entire white pot rule issue to rest — forever.

(On another note, if the company that makes the small white Solo cups stops making them, our growing community will probably suffer a huge "aftershock" that will be heard and felt around the world. By the way, does anyone know where I can find vendors that **will** produce white pots? LOL!)

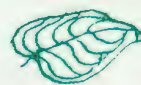
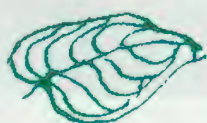
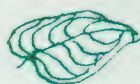




Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

PT-Luiza

Exhibited by:

Rodney Barnett

Hybridized by:

D. Ozherelyev/T. Pugacheva

Standard

LE- Prekrasnaia Kreolka

Exhibited by:

Linda Sumski

Hybridized by:

E. Lebetskaia

Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

RM-Rozovye Kudri

Exhibited by:

Alla Kotova

Hybridized by:

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Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Summer Love

Exhibited by:

Madelyn Sechler

Hybridized by:

I. Fredette

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True Things I've Learned from African Violets

By Sandi Mynatt • Heart of Jacksonville African Violet Society

1. They either like you or they don't. There is no middle ground.
2. They can look beautiful in full bloom one day and be drooping lifelessly the next day.
3. Violets are a welcome station for thrips, mites and all kinds of "uggy buggies."
4. The beautiful fresh plants from the big-box stores will quickly infest your other African violets (but the big-box violets will survive).
5. They are irresistible to nosy cats and dogs. Violets serve as bedding, toys and salad.
6. They will expose you to all kinds of people who hybridize, raise, sell and trade violets.
7. Growing violets will teach you a whole new vernacular, which is spoken exclusively by other growers.
8. You will learn that N-O-I-D is a four-letter word. Noids have a superior will to live.
9. They will frustrate the dickens out of you when the ones you paid the most for die.
10. They will desperately need repotting when you have the least time to do it.
11. They demand watering on the mornings you are already late for work.
12. They will take over every available window and room that is not essential for human living.
13. Violets are an addiction that will cost you more than a drug habit ever could.
14. They will be the topic of an ongoing argument between you and your spouse.
15. You will lie shamelessly to your spouse about how many plants you actually have.
16. You will attend monthly meetings, much like you might with AA, but come home with **more** plants.
17. Violets will compel you to drive many hours just to purchase more of them at a show.
18. Your show plants will bloom gloriously the week **after** the big violet show.
19. You will spend hours on inventory lists that are totally out of date by the following month.
20. You will discover the utter foolishness of inhaling perlite dust while making soil mix.
21. There will always be little crumbles of dirt and specks of crunchy perlite under foot, under your nails and in various body crevices.
22. You will become a master chemist when using pesticides, fertilizers and water additives.
23. You will discover rotten leaves and spent blooms in pockets of clothes just removed from the dryer.
24. Your dish drainer will constantly have plastic pots drying on it for later use.
25. You will learn that singing, shouting, cursing or begging make no difference to your plants.
26. You will debate on Facebook for hours whether wick, mat or top watering is best. (No matter which method you use, some commenters will hate it.)
27. You will talk endlessly with other growers about which lighting is most effective. (No matter which method you use, some of them will hate it.)
28. You will take up photography just to show off your pretty bloomers.
29. You will search every website, home store and dumpster for more wire shelving.
30. There is always a new variety on the market that you **must** have, regardless of price.
31. Violets will make you curse loudly when you are outbid in the last three seconds of an eBay auction.
32. You will experience a level of joy over a shipment of new varieties that is akin to a 5-year-old's Christmas morning reaction!

Classic Violet Spotlight: The 1950s

By Josh McKinney

Madison, AL • j-mckinney@mail.com

In my previous article on classic violets, I covered the original 10 hybrids released in the United States by Armacost & Royston. This time, I will highlight some of the golden classics from the 1950s. Any hybrid 25 years old or older is considered a vintage violet, and I will use the term "classic" synonymously. Most of these descriptions are from First Class and varieties noted with an "*" have photos in the database.

To begin our glimpse into the Baby Boom decade, Black Beauty by Granger had dark blue flowers and grew to a large size. Orchid Girl had single orchid flowers atop round, cupped-down girl foliage. Next, Heavenly Blue Eyes (276) produced single light blue flowers with a blue-white overlay and medium blue edge. Foliage was quilted and large. To my amazement, there was a semi-miniature registered in 1951, Violette Baby Doll (657). It had single violet two-tone flowers.

Little Sweetheart* (343) had semidouble white and blue flowers with plain foliage. Double Pink Girl,* (841) registered in 1956, has a beautiful photo in First Class. The tropical-sounding Hawaiian Sunset (272), by L. Reichert, had semidouble red-orchid two-tone blooms and serrated, quilted leaves. Red Girl Champion, (514) from the same hybridizer, had single dark maroon flowers with dark green, ruffled, quilted and scalloped standard foliage. Orchid Lace (426), from 1950, bloomed in red-orchid singles with ruffled girl foliage. A beautiful purple from that decade was Mentor Boy by Merkel. It had ovate, cupped down and quilted leaves. Moreover, Pink Beauty had buds that resembled apple blossoms.

Blue Girl and Friends

If you have Blue Girl*, the first violet with girl foliage, you should examine a few others from the same hybridizer, C. Ulery. Pink Cushion*, from 1957, is still grown today (866), with double dark pink flowers. Pink Delight* (463) has pale pink singles and was from 1952. There was also a darker pink, Pink Joy* (864) in 1957. If you like girl foliage, Purple Girl* (493) would be worth

finding. Red King (515), also by Ulery, was a rugged plant with two-tone red singles and dark green, quilted foliage. One that may be easier to find would be Red Velvet* (521), which grows larger. If you like the color orchid, Royal Scot* (554), had double orchid two-tone blossoms and dark bronze-green cupped, quilted leaves. Ruffled Queen* (558) was a blue-burgundy with a lighter frilled edge and supreme, large foliage. The fascinating White Pride* (872) with double white flowers and plain, large foliage

was the source plant that sported to Tommie Lou* (1744), by Tommie Louise Oden, the first violet with the characteristic edge variegation.

Still Available for Purchase

Furthermore, the next classic, which is from R. Benke, is Fantasy Girl* (218); it also can be purchased in the present. Beautiful single lavender flowers are produced with dark purple fantasy markings. Foliage is serrated and standard girl type. The photos I have viewed online look very pleasing. However, the first fantasy violet registered was the appropriately named Fantasy (217) in 1949, also by Behnke. Blooms were lavender with dark purple fantasy and it grew large.

**If you have
Blue Girl,
the first violet
with girl foliage,
you should
examine a few
others from the
same hybridizer.**

Best in Show

Additionally, below is a list of varieties that were best in show for 1950s-era AVSA conventions: 1951: Bi-Color (single lavender two tone); 1952: Red Waves (single red-violet with darker eye and top petals); 1953: Pink Delight (single light pink); Emperor Wilhelm (single purple with supreme cupped girl foliage) in 1954 and 1955; Ruffled Queen in 1956; Pink Ideal (double light pink) in 1957; and White Pride Supreme in 1958.

If you come across any of these classic violets, try growing a few and consider sharing leaves. Although you might wish to avoid any supreme foliage plants, as they were often brittle and more difficult to grow, the others should be much sturdier.

In conclusion, if someone is kind enough to send you some classic violet leaves, make sure to reimburse them for postage! If you have questions, you can contact me via email regarding the quest for Classic violets.



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Persian Prince

Exhibited by: Heather Demers

Hybridized by: S. Sorano

Miniature

The Strange Case of the Missing Saved Lists and other Capers

By David Kesler – Technology Committee
djkesler@mac.com

It has been a few months since First Class for All (FCA) went on sale in the AVSA Store, and sales have been very good. But there have been reports that something was wrong, something was missing.

Saved Lists

Reports came in from Sylvia, Judy and Joan with the same message, “Where are the saved lists from First Class version 2?” I had no good answer for them. You see, I never appreciated how attached someone might become to a saved list. I had made no provision to carry their information into FCA. They were just lists, after all, and all the information was in the new system to just re-create them. How hard would that be?

Upon further investigation, I found that my appreciation for saved lists was much lower than that of others who rely heavily on them. I had only used a saved list to keep track of plants to print labels for sales. I thought to myself, “what could anyone want to save that was so important?” It turns out there are a lot more uses for these little guys than just at sale time. Some of the lists the distraught ladies had built contained more than a thousand entries, and they had many lists that contained hundreds of entries.

Among the saved lists were the “Most Wanted” African Violets that have been chosen over the years. There were lists of all the currently held cultivars in their collections. There were “Wish Lists.” In fact, there were all manner of uses that I had never considered.

Something had to be done, and quickly. These ladies needed their saved lists and they needed them **now**. It wasn't going to be easy or quick. The data structure in First Class version 2 is very different from FCA. And therein lies the problem.

I would have to go back to the beginning, to the conversion of the information, and build in the saved list conversion from there. For lists that only had AVML plants, there was a way to retrieve and store the information in the new system, but not for the user database records. Those records could only be linked at the time the conversion was done. Converting only AVML records just was not good enough.

Caper solved! The procedure to restore the saved lists from FCv2 is found in the “What's New in this Release” for version 2.1d. Call if you have questions.

**These ladies
needed their
saved lists
and they
needed them
now.**

User-entered Data

There had been other reports as well. “The notes for my User Database records are there, but they are not on the correct plant!” reported Joan and others. This is serious! I told everyone that FCA would convert all user-entered data from v2, except for saved lists, at

the convention. I even put it in writing in my last article. Where did I go wrong? I needed help, so I went to Joe Bruns. He knows everything about FCv2; he wrote it. Alas, it seemed that I was correct in my understanding of how notes were stored and linked in FCv2, so the problem was my code, the way I had programmed the conversion. After poring over the hundreds of lines of code that deal with the conversion, I found it! There was a line of code where it did not belong. A tap of the delete key and another caper was solved.

Windows or MAC

The “Full screen” mode was the feature of FCA that received the best reception at the convention. But there was a problem with it on PCs. It is slow to get going, but I'm working on that. The real

problem is with the new “drag and drop” method of adding photos to cultivars; there was no way to see the “File Explorer” screen to drag a file. This is a real difference in the way that Windows and macOS work that I didn’t discover until the reports started coming in. Thankfully, this was an easy fix. I just resurrected the same technique that was used in FCv2 to add photos from the menu bar. Easy peasy, caper number three solved.

All three of these issues, or capers, have been addressed in the current release, 2.1d.

There are 14 fixes or additions included with this release. Please refer to the “What’s new in

this release” item in the Help menu bar for full information.

One last thing: If you have First Class for Mac, you need to get a new launcher to take full advantage of all the new features and future enhancements of FCA. Please email or call me for a link to this.

I welcome bug reports, and they usually only take a few minutes to fix. **Please include your phone number in your email.** It will expedite the process if I need more information. The automatic updating of FCA allows for a very fast turnaround on fixes and enhancements.



Sharing is Everything

By Carolee Carter • Ocala, Florida

When I was a kid, I was taught to share my toys. Have we forgotten that “sharing” lesson?

We have now completed a few fall African violet shows across the country, and we always anticipate many shows in the spring. I enjoy walking around the crowd of visitors when the show-room opens and am happy when someone asks me questions about the varieties on display. I want to encourage them to grow “perfect” African violets too and join an affiliate if they’re not already a member of one. And, I always tell them the *African Violet Magazine* and AVSA website are among the best sources of information on the planet!

I love to witness the breakdown of a show, when admirers of a plant you have entered are hoping that you will give them a leaf. Many of us do just that and leaves are up for grabs – what a frenzy it causes! I also have donated a lot of plants to raffle tables over the years and have spent time with growers answering all kinds of

questions. It is always amazing that I also manage to learn something new from this experience.

This brings me to the question, “Is it all about winning, or are we willing to share our knowledge?” I have been a member of six affiliates over the 30-plus years I have been growing, and early on I asked a lot of questions. The growers were happy to help me — most of the time. But there were times when I have asked (and have witnessed others ask) questions and was given a flip answer like “it just grows this way, you don’t have to do anything special.”

We cannot learn if everyone keeps their secrets to themselves. If we share our knowledge, everyone benefits — especially our affiliates and AVSA! If everyone knows everyone else’s secrets, then the playing field equalizes, and then we will have a real race for the best awards.

So, are you sharing *your* secrets? Leaves? Plants? Your time?

**We cannot
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**Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation
(All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)**

1. Publication Title African Violet Magazine	2. Publication Number <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>-</td><td>9</td><td>0</td><td>2</td><td>0</td></tr></table>			0	0	-	9	0	2	0	3. Filing Date 9/13/18
		0	0	-	9	0	2	0			
4. Issue Frequency Bi-Monthly	5. Number of Issues Published Annually 6	6. Annual Subscription Price \$35.00									
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®) 2375 North St., Beaumont (Jefferson) TX 77702-1722		Contact Person Amy Carruth Telephone (Include area code) (409) 839-4725									
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) 2375 North St., Beaumont (Jefferson) TX 77702-1722											

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)

Publisher (Name and complete mailing address)

African Violet Society of America, Inc.

2375 North St., Beaumont (Jefferson) TX 77702-1722

Editor (Name and complete mailing address)

Teresa Odle

P.O. Box 1828, Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346

Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)

N/A

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
African Violet Society of America, Inc.	2375 North St.
	Beaumont (Jefferson) TX 77702-1722

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box ☒ None

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)

The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:

☒ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months

☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

13. Publication Title African Violet Magazine		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below Sept. / Oct. 2018	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation Members		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (<i>Net press run</i>)		4000	4000
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	2961	2945
	(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	30	29
	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	25	25
	(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	316	291
c. Total Paid Distribution [Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4)]		3332	3290
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541		
	(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		
	(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	8	0
	(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (<i>Carriers or other means</i>)		
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		8	0
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		3340	3290
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		660	710
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		4000	4000
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		100	100

If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership

☒ If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the **Nov. / Dec. 2018** issue of this publication.

☐ Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner

 , Office Manager

Date

9/13/18

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Wick-watering Minis

By Josh McKinney • Madison, Alabama

I love to grow miniature and semiminature violets because they need much less space than standards and large varieties. The first time I spotted one was in my local Walmart and it had a wick and plastic reservoir. I grew a few in the early 1990s, but ended up losing them. I had tried wicking my standard violets around the same time with acrylic yarn for wicks and the plants atop washed margarine and pimento cheese containers. It worked for a time, but certain problems caused me to abandon that method of watering. The reservoirs became clogged with algae, even if I cleaned them, and they seemed to collect insects such as springtails.



Fast forward to the present day, and I have some beautiful minis and semis that I have hand-watered in the past. That method worked okay at first, but the plants would start wilting on hotter days and I could not keep up with watering almost daily! Jersey Girl Trail (#10374) kept losing outer leaves due to my erratic watering and little *Saintpaulia shumensis* (S3) would sometimes wilt before I noticed it needed a drink. It still bloomed though, with its jewel-like lilac flowers with purple-spotted centers!



Yogurt jar with 2-inch pot and wick.

Return to Wicking

I had been determined not to wick-water again and had even informed others that I did not wick. I finally decided to try it again with inexpensive food containers. I had read that other growers had success with mason twine, so I bought a package of No.18 polypropylene twine from Home Depot for about \$4 (you should avoid natural fibers because they will rot). For the reservoirs, glass containers from French-style yogurt seemed to be the correct size. Semis can fit more snugly in these containers, but minis need adapters. Two-ounce shallow plastic condiment cups are just the right size for minis. They will keep the small pots from falling into the jar and you can cut a hole for the wick. The labels are easier to remove if you pull them by the corner under running warm water. Another container to consider for minis with one and one-half inch pot size is a glass jar used for natural baby food. I have not been able to successfully remove the labels without leaving a sticky residue, so I am letting them remain in place.



Glass jars, applesauce cup, and 2-oz condiment cup.

More Small Reservoir Ideas

Also, for semis and small standards, you can use 4-ounce applesauce cups for reservoirs and 3-inch lids from 5.5-ounce plastic snack cups (mentioned in my September-October 2018 AVM article: "Organizing Your Collection.") You will need to cut the cup rims in half with scissors to make them fit the lids. Another container to consider is plastic 4-ounce portion cups with lids. Cut the mason twine to the desired length and immerse in soapy water (I like to use one of the reservoirs for this purpose.) Swirl the wicks around a bit and rinse with plain water before using. Insert the wick into the bottom of the pot and fray out the end. This helps the moisture distribute evenly through the potting mix. If you use a very small pot, you should use a thinner wick. Put some coarse perlite at the bottom and then repot the violet with fresh potting mix that has enough perlite to prevent waterlogging.



Morgan's Declan Duff with yogurt jar reservoir.

You might want to start with plain water first, and then switch to fertilizer water after the plant has acclimated to wick watering. I wanted to avoid community watering with my plants to reduce the possible spread of pests or pathogens. If there is an issue, it can more easily be isolated and resolved.

Wick-Watering Success

After a few weeks of wick watering, Jersey Girl Trail and *S. shumensis* (S3) are much healthier and more beautiful. I acquired Morgan's Declan Duff with a wick and I finally put it on a glass reservoir. It bloomed beautifully. Some varieties and species might not do as well, and you can compromise by keeping the wick and merely bottom watering by hand with a saucer. Sometimes the best solutions to your violet problems are in the items you might be ready to discard. Smaller containers work best, because oversized ones can accumulate algae too quickly and clog the wicks. Some growers use an algacide, but I do not. You can clean the reservoirs with a little soapy water, or if that fails, some vinegar or hydrogen peroxide, followed by thorough rinsing.

Container	Inside Diameter	Height	Capacity
Glass Yogurt Jars	2 1/8"	2 5/8"	5 oz.
Baby food Jars	1 11/16"	3"	4 oz.
Applesauce cups	2 5/8"	1 5/8"	3.9 oz.

Wick watering was a success this time for me. Just don't forget to flush the soil once a month or so to remove accumulated fertilizer salts. You might have the perfect-sized wicking container in your recycle bin right now, so try measuring a few to see what fits your violet pots!

Preparing Leaf Cuttings the Easy Way

By Paul Kroll • Lancaster, New York

Most all our club meetings feature leaf exchanges. There are many other gatherings of African violet enthusiasts where exchanges of leaves are appropriate and almost expected to take place. Whenever I speak to clubs or teach a judging school, I like to take cuttings along to share. After all, the act of sharing is an "insurance policy" that you can retrieve a favored variety, should you lose it from your collection.

Although my collection has been downsized recently, I am still growing a considerable number of African violets and other gesneriads. Since I am constantly grooming plants, repotting, etc., I like to save leaf and vine-type cuttings from my plants to share with others. I do this in a way that is easy for me and might work for you as well.

Use a Tub of Water and Grid

I have a tub that contains water with a few drops of Superthrive added. I drop in a plastic divided tray (I believe they are called Jiffy Packs) like those in which annual plants are sold.



Leaf cuttings placed in the divided tray.

I then make a "grid" on a sheet of paper that corresponds to the sections of that divided tray.

Cherokee Trail (2)	Jolly Fire (6)	Amethyst (8)	Jersey Jazz (8)	Ballet Blue Ice (4)	Rambler Cream Pie (4)
Confused (Mother) (7)	Buckeye Exclamation Point (3)	Cajun's Witchcraft (8)	Pink Energy (2)	Carolina Elegant Affair (2)	
Buckeye Blue Indigo (1)	K's Sage Word (3)				

Grid for tracking cuttings.

As I groom my plants and take cuttings, I put them into the tub of water, each in its own little divided section. I label the grid according to the location of those cuttings and mark down the number of leaves and/or cuttings of that named variety.

Sometimes the cuttings stay in their tub location for a few weeks. I have removed them to bag them individually and roots are already forming. No problem; I either recut the petiole or leave those roots on the cutting.

Prepping Leaves for Sharing

I print out labels for their individual baggies according to the number of cuttings I have saved. I can watch a TV program while I label the baggies, opening each one. (Don't you hate opening all those baggies individually? I would pay extra to be able to purchase baggies already opened!) I clip the groups of baggies together with a small bulldog clip. When the time is right, just before

I will give the leaf cuttings away, I put the cuttings into their individual baggies and clip the groups together again.

I learned a long time ago that leaf cuttings taken from a turgid plant need no further "attention" to keep them in good condition for several days in their individual baggie. Since my leaf cuttings have been in water, they need no cotton balls, aluminum foil or anything else put

on them. I just insert them into the baggie and seal.

Perhaps this method is not something you would like to use, but it has worked for me for many years. Folks often ask me how I can do so many cuttings in advance and this is how I manage the tasks involved. It is the easy way! Try it and you might find that it will help you make this task easier and more leisurely.



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Jolly Orchid

Exhibited by: Barb Lafashia

Hybridized by: H. Pittman

Miniature

Increasing Show Turnout

By Josh McKinney

Madison, AL • j-mckinney@mail.com

I recognize that hosting a violet show is no small task. It is not just a matter of securing the event space and recruiting exhibitors and vendors. Increasing turnout is a big part of making sure your local show is successful, so I thought I would list my observations after attending a violet show earlier this year. This is all my opinion and might include ideas you've already tried, but I hope some of the suggestions will help increase turnout at your next show.

Promote Your Show

First, I would suggest drafting an email (or postal distribution) list of people to notify of the show dates. Collect information from club members first, and then ask the AVSA office for contact information for any subscribers within a 100-mile radius or so. Also, request that club members contact any people they know who are interested in African violets and who are not members. If using an email message, remember to address the first message to yourself and blind carbon copy others on the list. MailChimp and Constant Contact can help if your list is longer than a few dozen addresses. If anyone asks to be removed, please be courteous and remove their address.

Give sufficient notice on the AVSA website and for the magazine so that your show will be published before it occurs. The magazine deadlines are listed inside the front cover of the magazine.

Next, consider asking permission to leave flyers for the show at your local botanical garden if you have one nearby. After reserving the event space, also ask permission to feature the show on or near the main sign for the venue. If your show is well

marked, people will be able to find it better. Additionally, local community event publications offer a good opportunity to get the word out.

A great way to encourage people to come to the show is to have prizes and promote them. For example, a few years ago, I appreciated a free leaf postcard coupon sent by the Cincinnati, Ohio Violet Society. Ask club members to donate their extras for this purpose. Consider holding a drawing for a blooming starter plant or two. You can use the information submitted to add interested people on your mailing list; just make sure visitors know they are agreeing to do so by entering the drawing.

Promote Your Affiliate and Plants

A show is a good opportunity to tell people about your club. Provide contact information about where you meet and your online presence. For example: "The Any Town Violet Society meets at 7 PM the third Tuesday of the month at the public library in meeting room A." Think about dividing up the tasks so no one is overwhelmed. Have demonstrations on plant division, repotting, leaf propagation or grooming. Many people new to violets are not aware which leaves to remove and when to do so (for example, yellowing leaves, leaves smaller than the row above, spent bloom stalks, etc.)

First Class is an invaluable resource to help make labels for sale plants. Every leaf or plant should have its name and description clearly printed. If visitors to your show can see how a mature plant will look and read its description, they will be able to make a more informed purchase. Collect boxes beforehand so buyers can carry their

**Consider
creating an
activity table
for kids that
will help the
next generation
discover the
joy of growing
violets.**

purchases home safely. You can use plastic grocery bags or shredded newspaper to help cushion the plants or leaves.

Get Creative

Additionally, don't be afraid to try new techniques! Consider creating an activity table for kids that will help the next generation discover the joy of growing violets. Print matching plant names with photos, coloring pages, word finds and simplified care instructions for one's first violet. I became interested in growing violets when I was in about fourth grade; likewise, we should help youngsters discover and focus their passion for plants.

Use your show to educate. Many people unfamiliar with gardening might not know the terms we use, such as perlite, vermiculite, disbudding, etc. A glossary will help educate people on these terms. Furthermore, explain the need for fertilizer when using soilless mixes and that less is more. For example, it is better to water with diluted

fertilizer (one-eighth tsp. per gallon) weekly than to use stronger doses less often.

I believe there are many young people who would be interested in growing African violets if someone would only provide them the opportunity to learn about the plants. Education is the key. Attempt to nurture a passion for growing violets and related plants. I still get excited when seeing a new variety produce tiny plantlets from a leaf for the first time!

African Violets might not give "instant results," like apps on smartphones, but they are beautifully rewarding and worth the wait. Many people might wrongly assume that violets are too difficult to grow and perhaps not worth the trouble. But, if people are taught how easy it is to grow African violets and how much fun they are to grow, we will preserve a violet legacy for future generations to enjoy.

Finally, remember to thank visitors for coming to your show and invite them back for next year.

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Leaving Town for the Holidays?

Sometimes, we worry more about our plants than our pets when it's time to leave home for holiday travel. Don't worry; your violets will miss you but can survive a week or two without you. Here are a few tips, courtesy of the June 20, 2016, Growing Tip.

- First, resist the urge to add extra water. That's more likely to cause rot than help your violets survive. Water as usual the day before you leave.
- Remove all stems with open flowers to save water use in your plant, and limit the plants' light exposure while unattended.

- Set your thermostat to save energy, but no cooler than 62 degrees in the room that houses your African violets.
- For extended absences, cover your plants with clear plastic bags or domes.

Other tips for holiday vacations: If you live in a dry climate or know your heater will run a lot while gone, your violets can dry out more quickly. Consider enclosing plants or your stands in plastic.

Of course, you always can ask a friend from your local affiliate to sit your violets.

Are You Missing Something?

Have You Subscribed to the *Growing Tip*? How About the *AVSA News for Members*?

Both the *Growing Tip* (weekly) and the *AVSA News for Members* (monthly) are sent via email to subscribers.

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Archived issues of the *Growing Tip* also can be found in the Members Area of the AVSA website.



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Optimara Little Rhodonite

Exhibited by: Kathy Lahti

Hybridized by: Holtkamp

Miniature

Article Contest Update

By Pat Hancock • Middletown, Ohio

Greetings to one and all. The new contest is under way and our new editor tells me that you are sending some great articles. So, please keep writing so she will have lots of fresh new material to make our magazine better and better.

Several of the prize contributors for our 2019 contest are the same as last year, but I have also added several new ones. I am so grateful for the willingness of those who contribute. Here are two new generous contributors:

Linda Abplanalp

I have known Linda Abplanalp for many years. She is the hybridizer of the "Carolina" African violets. Most lovers of African violets are familiar with her plant Carolina Elegant Affair — a Best in Show winner many times over.

Linda lives in Burlington, N.C., and has been hybridizing African violets since 2008. She is an AVSA senior judge and the winner of many awards. Linda also is a grower and hybridizer of daylilies. She is a master judge of daylily gardens and exhibition flowers. Linda hybridizes both standard African violets and trailers. Two new trailers that she soon will be showing are Carolina Bodacious (a small pink fantasy) and Carolina Jubilation (a small blue). Linda will send leaves of her new hybrids to all the contest winners.



Carolina Jubilation - Semiminiature Trailer



Carolina Made You Look - Standard



Carolina Bodacious - Semiminiature Trailer



Carolina Oh Mama - Standard

Ken Muzalewski

Ken Muzalewski is another new contributor to this year's contest. Ken lives in Carrollton, Texas, and has been growing violets since 2007. Ken has been a rancher and fireman, but now he is an avid hybridizer of African violets. He grows as many as 2,000 plants.



Hunter's Muy Grande - Standard



Hunter's Exit Wound - Standard

Ken started hybridizing in 2009 and is the winner of many show awards. He hybridizes large standards and miniature and semiminature African violets. Ken uses the prefix "Hunter's" on

all his plants due to his love of hunting. His two favorite hybrids are Hunter's Muy Grande and Hunter's Exit Wound. He will send leaves of his new hybrids to all the winners.



Hunter's Miniatures



Hunter's Slippery When Wet - Standard

Again, thanks to all who are helping with this project. I will write profiles of two more new contributors for the next issue. And I'm hoping to see some new names on the list of contest entries. Please write about your violet experiences; our new editor will help with spelling grammar, etc., so give it a try.



Mac's Pizza Pizzicato

Best in Class
(MAAVS Convention 2017)

Exhibited by:
George McDonald
Hybridized by:
George McDonald
Miniature

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Jersey Snow Flakes

Exhibited by: Diane Pagé
Hybridized by: R. Kurzynski
Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Jersey Girl Trail

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